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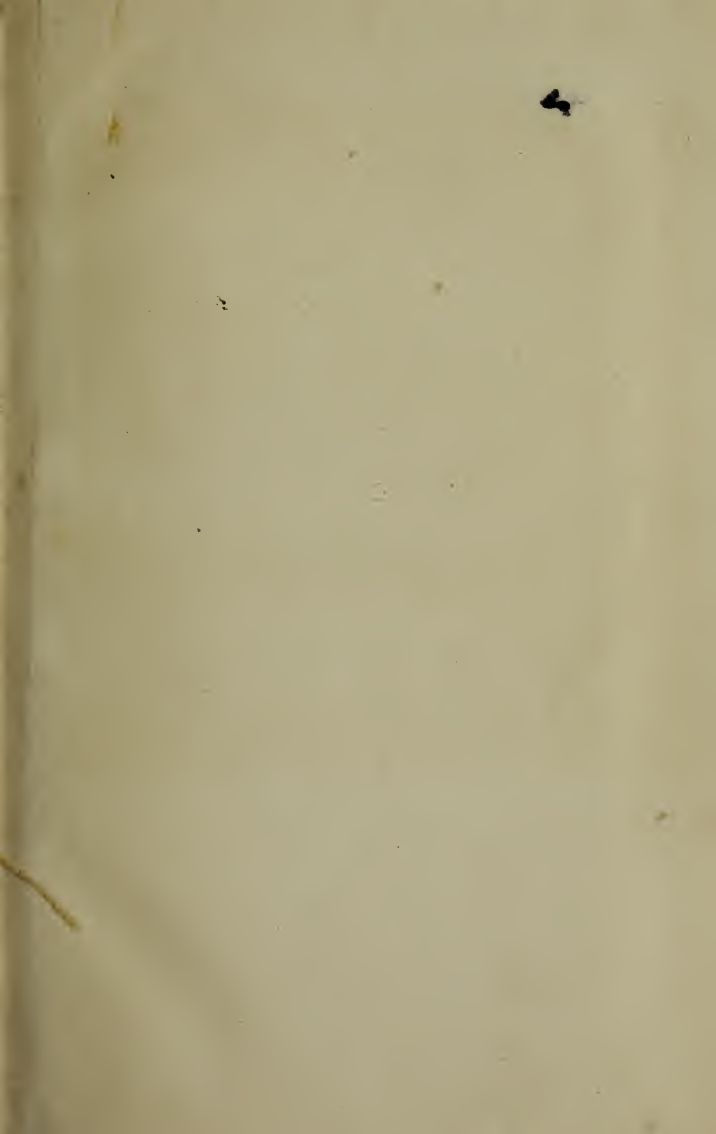


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Eliza Buryon
1799.

THE STAGE COACH:

CONTAINING
THE CHARACTER
Of MR. MANLY,

AND THE
History of his FELLOW TRAVELLERS.

By a LADY of COLCHESTER,
AUTHOR of the BROTHERS, &c.

A new EDITION, in THREE VOLS.

VOL. I.

Our outward act is prompted from within;
And from the sinner's mind proceeds the sin:
By her own choice free virtue is approv'd;
Nor by the force of outward objects mov'd:
Who has assay'd no danger, gains no praise:
In a small isle amidst the widest seas,
Triumphant constancy has fix'd her seat;
In vain the Syrens sing, the tempests beat:
Their Flatt'ry she rejects, nor fears their threat.

}
PRIOR's *Henry and Emma*.

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THE
STAGE COACH.

CHAP. I.

*A Description of the Passengers in the
Stage Coach.*

MR. MANLY, an elderly gentleman, possessed of a large portion of wealth, sense, and humanity, having lost an amiable wife, with whom he had passed many happy years, had been endeavouring, by making the tour of England, to dissipate the gloom in which his mind was involved;

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a method

a method that produced salutary effects, as it procured him frequent opportunities of remarking the resignation and fortitude of people, whose afflictions were even greater than what he experienced. The acute sense he had of the calamities of others, blunted the edge of his own, and he found relief in the means he employed towards the mitigation of theirs.

After passing a season at Scarborough, he was obliged to return to town in the stage coach, his own horses being seized with a distemper that was then epidemical. Before he entered the coach, he enquired what company he was to have; and was informed an old gentleman, named Moody, with his daughter, and one Captain Cannon, were all that had taken places. The captain was very loud and vociferous in the orders he gave their driver, concerning the care of his baggage at setting forth, then folded his arms and composed himself for a nap.

Mr. Moody's

Mr. Moody's appearance could not prejudice his fellow-travellers in his favour; his aspect bearing a strong resemblance to Nero, as depicted in some old country hall; and I always imagined, until I saw him, the painters had rather drawn from the character of that emperor, than the lineaments of any human visage: he was habited in a bear-skin coat, buckled on with a girdle, an old grizzle wig that seemed designed to frighten more than the human species, and a hat which had been formerly decorated with lace, and retained its original colour in no part but the edging; so that if he had not, at seating himself, dropt some expressions which denoted he was in the peace, he would sooner have been taken for a conductor of cattle, than an escort to a pretty genteel young lady, who appeared the reverse of the justice, in person, dress, and humour. An unlucky jolt awaking the captain, Mr. Manly discovered in his elevated eye-brow, and supercilious sneer, evident

marks of self conceit, and contempt for his companions.

The vehicle had passed on some miles before any one in it attempted to speak, when Mr. Manly broke the silence by addressing the lady, “ I think, ma’am, I had the pleasure to see you some times at the wells;—I hope if want of health or amusement brought you, the end was answered.”

She blushed and bowed, but made no reply; the old gentleman, pushing her elbow, said, “ Why don’t you speak, Rose? —Can’t the girl give the gentleman a civil answer?” The lady, who seemed to wait for his leave before she opened her lips, replied, “ I am extremely obliged to you, sir; ill health occasioned my taking this journey, and I think I have found relief.”

“ ’Tis well you can think so at last, daughter, but ’tis the first time you had the grace to own you were better: I hope you
are

are cured of the stubborns, and can live without that plaguy pothecary, rabbit him! I never mention him but I wish he were brayed in his own mortar."

Mr. Manly, observing the contracted brow which accompanied his speech, and the timid looks of the person to whom it was addressed, began to fear he had started a disagreeable subject, and in order to divert their thoughts from it he accosted the officer: "I imagine, sir, you came rather in pursuit of pleasure, than health."

"Neither, 'pon my honour; meer charity carried me, and chagrin brings me back."

"I am sorry, replied Manly, so laudable a design should be frustrated."

"Sir, you shall judge, and old bluff here, turning to the justice, if I have not been cursedly used.—I went to Scarborough, sir, purely to save the life of as fine a wo-

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man

man as any in Europe, and as great a jilt as Penelope."

"Is the lady dead?" demanded Manly.
 "No, powder her! she is in the land of the living, and on the brink of marriage."

"Did you cure her, pray?" cried the justice, "I should not have suspected from your visage that you had been a doctor."

"You should not, old square toes!—and yet, upon the faith of a foldier, I assure you, I have rid more men of their diseases than half the college of physicians. I'm skilled in the science, my dear! steel! steel! is a never-failing remedy, properly applied." Then drawing his sword, and presenting it to him; "'Tis well tempered, you old blade! What say you to this?"

"I believe, answered Manly, "It is as safe a medicine, in your hands, as any in the materia medica; no life, I presume, was
 ever

ever lost by it.—But, by your own account, the lady, in question, did not experience the efficacy of this sort of physic; pray what was your prescription to her?”

“ A most shocking one, I must confess, but as I was ready to have swallowed it to oblige her, she had no reason to keck at it; Mat-ri-mo-ny I advised.”

“ And she is going to follow your advice, you say,” added Manly.

“ Yes, yes, but not according to my direction; she has used me confoundedly; that I'll trumpet to all the world; you see my person—it might have been more for her ease if she never had; but, let that pass—I have the honour to bear a lieutenant's commission;—add to this the politeness and knowledge I have acquired in the service, and tell me, whether such qualifications are not sufficient to entitle a gentleman to any woman's favour in the nation? Yet, such was

my consumed modesty, I should never have thought of attacking her, had she not made the first advances; and my profession obliges me to accept all challenges, or be branded with cowardice. But, this is nothing to my story.

“ It was my fate to be quartered, last year, in a town, near which her brother, Sir Marmaduke Hartly, has a seat; the neighbourhood gave out that she had twenty thousand pounds to her fortune, but that report made no more impression upon me, than if it had been so many bullets. I, and my brother officers, passed our time very queerly in this place, which being inhabited chiefly by trades-people, could not furnish those necessary amusements that men of figure and taste require; so, to chase away the dull hours, and save ourselves actually from sinking under the pressure of stupidity, we proposed to some of the wives and daughters, to have an assembly once a month: it happened Miss Hartly was in the country, and

and graced our last ball with her presence; as she came late, unfortunately I was engaged to dance, before she made her appearance, with a girl of my acquaintance: however, perceiving she was piqued, and being unwilling to give her chagrin, I presently pretended to hurt my ankle, quitted my partner, and retired into the card room, where she was engaged at whist. No sooner had I stationed myself at her elbow; but I observed her features brighten up; and casting her eyes towards me, with a smile, she asked me for a pinch of rapée, upon which I presented my box, and she commended the snuff to the heavens: was not this hint pretty plain?"

"Truly, said the justice, I think it was, and I hope you were so mannerly to let her take what she liked on't; not but 'tis a foolish custom women have got into, of filling their heads with dust and nonsense." Here the old gentleman paused, to apply a large quid of tobacco to his mouth, and the officer proceeded,

“ This, sir, was but a prelude to further advances; for she desired me to find her servants, and order her chariot, then accepted of my hand to put her into it.”

“ And what followed?” said Mr. Manly.

“ I, to be sure,” answered Cannon.

“ I mean, said Mr. Manly, what further acquaintance had you with the lady?”

“ That is what I’m coming to, replied the soldier, I proposed, after she had shewn such an inclination to be well with me, to have attended her at her brother’s, and went next day thither to pay my devoirs to her; but a servant told me she did not chuse to see company whilst she staid in the country; in about a fortnight she changed her quarters, and I never could see her, till this summer I was informed she was gone to Scarborough; and after such flagrant hints,

hints, I could not be at a loss to guess the occasion of her taking that route."

"What hints?" said Moody.

"Those I have repeated; ladies don't use to speak right down; but I was too well versed in the sex not to know love was the cause of the indisposition that carried her there; so I marched to the wells after her, and waited upon her at her lodgings, the Morning after my arrival, being willing to shew my readiness to relieve her; she was so excessively civil, that I offered to dance with her at the ball that evening, but that she declined. Matters going on so swimmingly, I sent her a billet-doux, which cost me three hours time to compose next morning, and staid at home all day, in expectation of an answer, notwithstanding I had received a whole pack of cards from the nobility and gentry of my acquaintance, requesting the favour of my company at the rooms. No notice being taken of my letter, I began to suspect she intended to jilt me;

and then determined to make her another visit, in order to expostulate with her on the absurdity of her behaviour: accordingly I dressed myself in a new suit of true French embroidery, and went, and how d'ye think she received me?"

"No doubt, with surprise," said Manly.

"Yes, sunburn her! so she did, but not in the manner you would expect; for, when I explained the design upon which I came, she bridled up like a major's horse at a review, coloured like a fury, and gave herself violent airs, complained of my superlative insolence; and had the ill breeding to tell me, if I did not make my retreat immediately, her servants should shew me the way out of the house."

"And what effect had this sentence upon you?" said Manly.

"For a moment, I stood as if I had been *putrified*, like *Ninnibe*, with astonishment, at her

her consummate assurance. But, recovering from my amazement, I burst into a horse laugh, and bowing left the room; declaring at the same time, if she should happen to change her mind, mine was fixed, never to see her more. Upon this I decamped, for I would not stay in the place to be the jest of my rival."

"Then the gentlewoman had another pretender?" said the justice.

"Yes, one of her brother's providing, you may swear, by her treatment of the man she liked. I should have pinked the fellow, but that I thought a duel might swell her pride, so I chose rather to mortify her by absenting myself."

"A very extraordinary affair indeed!" said Manly.

"I see nothing at all in it, said the justice, for it as plain to me as the nose on my face,
that

that this young man has been following a wild goose chase: What! because the gentlewoman took a pinch of your powder of posh, and sent you on her errands, was she obliged to give you herself and 20,000l. into the bargain? pshaw! pshaw! young spark, you talk like a simpleton." Then turning to his daughter, "Mind, Rose, here is a pattern for you to copy after; odd! I'll drink Madam Hartley's good health in a bumper; she must be a clever discreet woman, let me tell you, to take her friends choice in a husband."

"You have a right notion of the lady, said Manly; I have the pleasure to be well acquainted with her, and her family; and, I assure you, the gentleman she honours with her esteem, was her own free choice, though Sir Marmaduke's approbation adds to his merit, in her opinion. She has received his addresses some years; and I am certain has too much sense and prudence to give any other the least hope of supplanting him.

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As to my fellow traveller, I am afraid he is apt to entertain too sanguine an opinion of a favourite scheme, not to be liable to many disappointments; and I think his retreat from Scarborough one of the most fortunate he ever made; for I am so well assured of the courage of his rival, that I am inclined to believe, if he had been acquainted with his pretensions, his nose might not have preserved its pristine situation."

Cannon hearing Manly talk in this strain, began to soften the ferocity of his aspect, and closing his eyes, fell into what is called a fox sleep, until the coach stopped at the inn where they were to dine; he then pretended want of rest obliged him to seek a bed, and retired.

CHAP.

CHAP. II.

The Justice tells his Tale.

UPON their entrance into the inn, Miss Moody went aside with the hostess, to recompose her dress; and Mr. Manly took that opportunity to congratulate her father on his happiness of having so promising a child.

The old gentleman thanked him, and said, “I love the girl as I love my life, that’s certain; for she is all the children I have left, out of six: indeed I would give a thousand pound that she was a boy, but that she can’t help, nor I neither. She was very dutiful to me in her non-age; and now she is grown up, she never did but one thing to disoblige me in all her life, but I hope I shall get the better of her, for I cannot abide an headstrong obstinate temper; I never could away with wilfulness when I was a lad, but was always resolved to follow my
own.

own devices, against all the obstinacy of my father and mother: and when I was married, I never suffered my wife to get her will of me; and I tell you Mr. ——— may I crave your name, fir?"

" My name is Manly, fir."

" Why, then Mr. Manly, let me tell you, my daughter shall never be my master. Here! I have brought her up in as handsome a manner as I could afford, in hope she would be a consolation to me in my old age; and instead of that, I find she is like to be my torment."

Mr. Manly, at this, observed to him, there was no appearance in her aspect of what he intimated.

" O you don't know, women are all deceitful, all of 'em are Eve's daughters; but I'll take care and lock her up, she shan't decieve me, I warrant her; there is nothing like

like keeping girls strict, so into the lumber garret she shall go, and live upon bread and water, 'fore she shall make a fool of me."

Mr. Manly replied, " I must take the liberty to declare, my sentiments differ from yours in this respect: sure it is much more eligible to exact returns of duty by tenderness and affection, than by threats and harsh usage: you would do well, sir, to reflect on the danger of driving a young person to extremities, by violent and forcible methods; and as I imagine the young lady's fault is not of a very malignant nature, I would recommend more gentle ones."

" I don't know what you call malicious faults, but surely you must count it a crime for a girl to go and throw herself away upon a stranger fellow, because, may-hap, he has wheedled himself into her fancy, and refuse to match with one of her own neighbours, when she knows how they were bred
and

and born, and all her friends wish her to have him."

"Now, you have explained what I but guessed at. I agree with you, sir, if you have stated the case fairly, that the young lady may be in an error; but are you certain the design you have formed will convince her that she is so? Are you perfectly acquainted with the person she prefers? Or may you not be too much prejudiced in favour of him you propose? There is a possibility, and do not take it amiss if I speak freely, that partiality on either side may constitute merit, where it does not exist."

"Sir, I must say I like to hear you talk; but, since you think me too sharp, I'll tell you the plain truth of the matter, and then you'll see who to find fault with. About two years ago I buried this girl's mother, and she being foolishly vapoured and melancholy for her loss, I was persuaded to let her go for a while to visit a sister of my wife's,

wife's, that lives at Hampstead, a widow gentlewoman, one Mrs. Severn. I was a little loth she should go there, because her aunt has too much understanding for a woman, and can read as well as the parson of the parish; and she is not so careful of a young body as she should be, and don't stand upon her prerogative, so as to keep them in awe, but gives them their head too much; yet as she pressed her to come, and may-hap has saved a little money out of her jointure, which is as good as my estate yearly, you know, it would not have been right to say her nay; so Rose went, and had not been long with her, before she was so sick that her aunt sent for a doctor to tend on her, a pothecary I should say, one of your spruce London blades, and he filled her head with such fancies, that she has never been well since; though I did not find out what ailed her 'till lately, when I met my neighbour 'squire Hardy, at the club; he says to me here's to your daughter's health, she grows a clever woman; I expect my son Tim from
the

the East Indies shortly, and if you like, they shall make a match; for now, since my brother Ralph has left him so handsome, he will have no occasion to plough the ocean: 3000 a year, and a thousand pounds in money, will be enough for him to live amongst us: and I was always desirous of matching in my own country, as my eldest son has done; now there an't a young gentlewoman that I should like so well for him. - Consider of it, and make the motion to her before he comes home."

" Upon this, I told the 'squire that I had no objection, and I did not think the girl would have any; but whether she had or no, did not signify a brass farthing, so long as we had agreed upon the matter, if Mr. Timothy could fancy her, she should marry him, and love would come after."

" Next day, at dinner, I began to talk about the matter to her, and she was so perverse, she would not eat a mouthful after;
but

but as soon as she went from table, shut herself up in her closet, and would not come down to supper, pretending she had the head-ach. And, as true as you are alive, in the morning, the young jade desired I would let her go and see her aunt again, for that air agreed with her, though I knew it cut like a knife.

“ Well, then I mentioned Mr. Timothy; and I can’t say she positively refused him, only said, she wished I would have patience, and wait for her answer till he came to speak for himself; this I thought but reason, as women liked to be courted; but yet, I did not chuse she should go to Hampstead, for fear she should see one more to her liking. She seemed easy enough for a fortnight after, when one Sunday, at church, I observed a shabby kind of traveller-like looking fellow stand in the aisle, just before my pew; I cannot say I was rightly awake, having eat pretty hearty of a loin of beef, so I did not much heed him; and taking my usual nap,
after

after I was seated, I did not wake till the fingers struck up; when methought I heard a very fine voice amongst them, and looking wishfully over the pew, I found it was the raggamuffin that I spoke of. I took so much notice of him, that at last I espied a handsome ring upon his finger, which made me suspect a snake in the grass; however, I kept my thoughts to myself, but resolved to have him watched."

"As soon as I got home, I sat down, according to my custom, with a few jolly neighbours, to smoke my pipe, and to be merry, over a bowl of punch in the hall. I perceived that Rose, after she had drank tea, instead of going up to her closet, as she used to do, to spend that day by herself, put on her hat and walked out; this motion surprised me, and I called one of the maids, and asked where she was gone; she answered, no further than the coach-yard gate, and that she was talking to a beggar, who was
in

in great distress, being cast away aboard ship."

"Upon this, I stole out after her: and the coach-house doors being open, I went in, and over heard enough of their conversation to inform me, that this pretended sailor was a sweetheart. She whimpered, and said she was afraid her inclinations would be forced; yet she talked dutiful enough about me, and he talked nonsense, about living in a cottage upon love. In short, I was in too great a heat to hear all that passed distinctly; and I believe, if I had happened to have had my old fox by my side, I should have found the way to his heart, as well as Rose; but, as I had no weapon, and my hands a good deal hurt by the gout, I did not like to grapple with him, so I went softly into the hall again, and sent out two stout fellows to seize the vagrant, and was just ordering my clerk to write his mittimus, when our parson, Mr. Doughty, came in to enquire the cause of
this

this bustle. No sooner did the prisoner lay eyes on him, than he desired he might be allowed to speak a word with him in private; this my neighbours thought but reason; so the parson and he were locked up in the great parlour some time, when Mr. Doughty came out alone, and taking me aside, told me, this young man was no vagrant, as I conceived, but the second son of one 'Squire Lee, who was in commission for the peace, in the county of Bucks, and had an estate of 600l. a year: that this son of his was a *pothecary* in London, and looked after my daughter when she was at her aunt's, and that he protested he loved her as his own life, and she him; and he took upon him to say, he knew Mr. Lee had the character of a sober young man, and was well skilled and diligent in his profession; that he had 1500l. left him by a relation, which he set up with, and would have much

more from his father; and he could not see why I should be against the match.

“Knowing the parson was an honest well-meaning man, I could not be so angry with him as I should have been with another, though I did not like his talk; but I consented to release the young man, and told him, if ever he come nigh my doors again, I had always a blunderbuss in my house; for I had promised my daughter to one in my own country, and she should have nothing to say to people that came from nobody knows where.

“I would not see Rose that night, which I hear she spent in tears, but your women are all onion-eyed; she whined and pined so much after this, that folks told me she would go into a consumption; and I can’t say I should like to be left without an heir, so I followed my own doctor’s advice, and sent her to Scarborough, under
the

the care of my cousin Deborah, who went there for the rheumatis; but as she was to stay longer, and Mr. Timothy might chance to come in the mean while, I left my harvest to go and fetch her, for fear her spark should get an inkling of her upon the road. She is a good likely girl, tho' she is mine, and I can give her enough to make the pot boil, if she is not headstrong: but here she comes, so mum!"

CHAP. III.

Cannon's *Account of an Expedition.*

THE appearance of Miss Moody prevented Mr. Manly from replying, as he intended, to her father; but, he determined the first opportunity, to resume the subject, and endeavour to persuade him to lighten her bondage. She seemed pretty chearful at dinner; and Mr. Manly's humane behaviour encouraged her sometimes to join in their discourse, in which she acquitted herself so appositely, as to prove her silence was rather the result of a proper diffidence than any defect in her understanding.

The officer did not appear, till summoned by the coachman, having passed his time in conversation with the landlady, and two of Mr. Manly's servants, from whom he learned that he was a man of
con.

condition, and a member of parliament. This information was sufficient to make Cannon think him entitled to respect. Accordingly, at his return to the coach, he was particularly complaisant to him. The discourse turning on the regiment to which the officer belonged, Mr. Manly asked him if he had any knowledge of one Colonel Jesson, who had formerly served in it; he replied, "Yes, sir, I have reason to remember George Jesson, a queer mean-spirited dog as lives! he was once my commanding officer, and married, like a fool, to a girl that had nothing to recommend her but prudery, for which he is secretly laughed at by the whole regiment."

"I believe it is so secretly, indeed," answered Manly, "that it never reached any one's ears; for I am well convinced, his courage is too notorious, to permit any one to affront him."

“ Courage! repeated Cannon, why he is commanded by his wife, and dare not, for his soul, have an affair with any other woman: between friends, I wish his brain is not a little shattered, for the fellow is no fool, and has been seen undauntedly to march up to the mouth of a canon, yet would not, for the world, suffer an oath to issue out of his own: and then he confounds his senses by reading; one shall seldom go to his quarters, but one finds him muzzing over one of the Classics, as he calls ’em.

Here the justice interrupted him, with, “ What weapon did the colonel use, say you?”

“ A very proper one to kill time with; replied Manly, I’ll engage his heels will be never the lighter for furnishing his head; and as gentlemen of his profession have so many leisure hours, they cannot employ them to better purpose.”

“ It

“ It may be very well for pastime, as you observe, returned the officer, but he need not be forever engaged in Homer’s battles : he might be a very good general, and a pretty fellow, four or five hundred years ago, but the Roman discipline must differ from ours; and I think Bland’s very sufficient.”

Mr. Manly could not help smiling at his blunders, and said, “ He hoped he attended to the last mentioned book.”

“ Not I, sir, I assure you, I had always too much fire and vivacity to become a book-worm. My schoolmaster presently discovered that; and the old put had the ill manners to tell my relations, my skull was impenetrable, though he had ocular demonstration to the contrary, for scarce a week passed but I had a broken head, being the cock of the school at fighting: however I was obliged to old humdrum,

as my friends were persuaded by him to remove me, when I was but sixteen; and could then construe *Que Genious*, as well as himself. As soon as I returned home, my mind ran upon volunteering, and I insisted myself as a private gentleman, when my guardian purchased me a pair of colours: I found campaigning so expensive, that when I came of age I had no more to receive of my fortune than 1000*l.* half of which I gave for the commission I now bear, and the other half I disposed of."

"On good security, I hope," said the justice.

"Oh, very good; for ought I know it may be in the bank; for I was forced to part from it for necessaries, to qualify me for the conversation of the ladies."

"I doubt, said Mr. Manly, by the account of your late adventure, you have
not

not found a return answerable to your expences."

"Sir, I have indeed, hitherto, been unlucky, but I don't despair; though Miss Hartly is not the only jilt I have met with, as you shall understand. I had ever a notion of gallantry, and once was very near being caught and losing my liberty."

"Indeed! said Manly, how came that to pass?"

"Why, sir, you must know, my guardian, who was a thick headed plodding tradesman, had a pretty neice lived with him, of small fortune; for 3000l. was the most she had to trust to; yet, notwithstanding this scanty pittance for a man of my fashion, I was unaccountably charmed with her person; and verily believe, if her uncle could have tossed her in four more, I should have been weak enough to have overlooked the disparity

of our births, for she was the daughter of a mechanic, and have married her: but as there was no probability of that, I determined to have her upon cheaper terms; and as I had frequent opportunities of assailing her with all the address I was master of, I soon made such a breach in her heart, that I concluded she would quickly surrender; though being a girl that made great pretences to virtue, I was obliged to couch my design under that veil, and to use such language as custom has authorized on these occasions.

“ The credulous fool believed me in earnest; yet, when I desired her to make an elopement from her uncle, she gave herself airs of displeasure: however she confessed she had no objection to ranging the world with me, provided I would obtain a canonical commission; but here I begged to be excused, till she could so far rely upon my honour, as to
trust

trust her person and fortune in my hands; to induce her to this, I solemnly swore to make her my wife, as soon as we arrived at a place of safety, out of her uncle's reach. I thought I might safely protest and promise any thing to a woman, without any danger of being hampered in the noose."

"I suspect, said the justice, by your talk, you will be in danger of it one time or another. What a shame! Didn't you mean to keep your word with her?"

"Nothing less, upon my honour," replied the foldier.

"If you make use of that oath to corroborate your assertion, said Manly, your own confession has rendered it invalid."

"How, sir! returned Cannon, I must take upon me to say, the honour of a foldier is not to be trifled with."

“ No certainly; nor by any means ought it to be forfeited; therefore I beg you would proceed, and leave that point indisputable.”

Cannon, either not comprehending, or not chusing to reply to this speech, continued, “ Some days after I had this conference with Kitty, I received a billet from her, in which she told me, if I would meet her the following night, at twelve o’clock, in a lane without the town, when the old dragon was at rest, perhaps she would accompany me where I chose to go. This was more than I expected, for she had been confounded shy from the time I made the proposition to her. I passed that night sleepless, settling our rout in my own imagination, and contriving a method to rid myself of her company when I should grow tired of it.

“ At the hour appointed, I went to the place of assignation, and waited in

one

one of the coldest nights in November, 'till I heard the town clock strike one. No Kitty appearing, I lost all patience, and was cursing her heartily for a jilting baggage, when I was accosted by a stout porter-like fellow, with a dark lanthorn in one hand, and a cudgel in the other. Noble captain, said he, will you be pleased to surrender your arms, and evacuate this place, for I am commanded to take you prisoner.

“ You must know, gentlemen! and let my enemies confess, I am no coward, and would scorn a retreat in the face of them or the sun; but this unexpected attack, at such an hour, and such a place, a little disconcerted me; and, after a minute's pause, I judged it prudent to obey the orders of my assailant, who, by his salutation, proved he was no stranger, and might as well be a secret friend, as foe; for it occurred to my mind, that I was
observed

observed by a lady of distinction, coming out of a milliner's shop a few days before; and it was no improbable conjecture, that a man of figure, in a country town, should excite her curiosity; for I have not the vanity to affirm she was actually in love with me; but, it was natural to conclude, that she had, by some means or other, information of my intrigue with Kitty, and took this method to preserve me from throwing away myself. These reflections determined me to treat her messenger with civility, and I surrendered rather to the lady than him."

"Methinks, said Mr. Manly, part of his orders were unnecessary; for I imagine upon the sight of the cudgel you were in a disposition to evacuate."

"No really, nothing but the respect due to a fine lady, should have induced me to have quitted my station. Having delivered my sword, and a brace of pistols

pistols, to the fellow, I demanded of him what I was next to do? upon which he took me by the arm, and told me, he should conduct me according to his orders: I entreated him to tell me from whom he received them? but that he refused: I then only desired to know if he served any lady; his answer was, I serve as good people as you are.

“ All this time we were moving on, and I found he carried me bye-ways into the town, though the light was not sufficient to inform me into what part; at last, he stopped, and opened a back gate, through which we entered. I then begged him, ingeniously, to tell me if he was not employed by some lady to conduct me there. Upon which the surly dog held up his lanthorn to my face, burst into a laugh, and had the impudence to demand what I thought there was to be seen there, that a lady should trouble herself about
me?

me? but, says he, you will see one that will satisfy all your questions.

This last sentence made some amends for his brutality, and served to revive my hopes. I attended him with spirit, till he brought me into a stable, and fastning the door, desired I would amuse myself there 'till his return. I began now to be confoundedly provoked, and thought it below a man of my condition to be forced, by a poltroon, into the society of beasts, who almost suffocated me with their stench."

"Why, aye, cried the justice, you were but in an ugly way, I must say; second thoughts to be sure, are best; 'tis much, though they did not come into your head before you parted from your weapons. But pray don't let me interrupt you, for I long to know how you got out."

"Sir

“ Sir, replied the officer, I remained in this cursed condition near two hours, as I guess, and should certainly have expired, if I had not stuffed my nose with Spanish bran. At last the door opened, and presented to my view Kitty’s uncle and Colonel Jesson : they led me into the house, my indignation not suffering me to utter a syllable.”

“ The first that opened his lips, was my late guardian; “ I am glad sir, says he, we have caught you before you could put your dishonourable scheme in execution. It was mean in you to endeavour to seduce my niece, but as I imagine love was your chief counsellor in this affair, I am willing to pardon the attempt, provided you consent, before this gentleman, to make good your promises to her. I own I should have objected to your character and fortune; (mind that gentlemen, from a threepenny-halfpenny fellow, that got his bread behind a counter) but if she
can

can away with them, I will consent to your marriage."

"Had a cannon-ball that instant struck me, I could not have been more amazed! however, I soon recovered the use of speech, and answered, I scorned his alliance; and you may be assured, says I, upon the faith of a foldier, I never had any affair with the girl beyond common gallantry. You may keep her very safely for me; for as my old friend, Mr. Somebody says, in the play, Marriage shall be the last bad thing I'll do." No doubt but your niece is in love with me, but, if I were to marry every girl that likes me, I should have as many wives as the Grand Seignior. Pistol me! if I am not concerned the monkey should fix her affections upon me; but it is my misfortune to be eternally plagued with importunities of this kind. I should be glad to oblige the poor devils, but I can only
pity

pity them. I heartily wish Kitty had twenty or thirty thousand pounds, for her own sake; for no less sum can ever bribe me to part with my liberty."

"What said the uncle to this?" cried Manly.

"He talked a great deal of consumed stuff, about my honour, and his neice's reputation; but, as all this was nothing to me, I only gave him the hearing. George Jeffon, too, put on a very significant look, and made an harangue to the same purpose; but I thought I saw thro' him; he had done a sneaking trick in marrying a woman beneath his fortune, and wanted me to keep him in countenance. Finding he could not gain his ends, and having the command, he ordered me into other quarters immediately, and I never saw the girl since. But I have been informed she was such a consumed jade, as to acquaint her uncle with
all

all that passed between us; and that Jefferson was mean enough to concern himself in the affair, and to warn her against me; besides, he dictated the letter I received from her, which she wrote on purpose to bring me into a scrape, and with no design of accepting me, if I had agreed to her uncle's proposal."

"What is become of the lady?" said Manly.

"She is married to a fellow with no brains, but a confounded estate," replied Cannon.

"How came you acquainted with the defects in his understanding?" cried Manly.

"Are not they sufficiently proved, by his marrying a jilt?" And here, kind reader, it may not be amiss to leave you to examine the proofs, whilst I proceed to the next chapter.

C H A P. IV.

A Word of Advice.

MR. Manly, perceiving Cannon had concluded his story, said, “I perceive you have been a little unfortunate in your amours; but, if you would take my advice, you will not be so easily disappointed.”

“He replied, “I should be vastly obliged to you, if you’d put me in a way to avoid such perplexing affairs, without confining me; but, I am naturally compassionate; and if a poor silly creature takes it in her head to admire one, one cannot be so cruel as to affront her: I am sure if I had a spice of ill-nature in my composition, I should have avoided many affairs of this sort.”

“You seem, indeed, said Manly, to have a very pliant disposition, other-
wise

wife you could not have been so easily led into the scrape you mentioned; but you would do well never to engage in any affair of that nature, till you are more intimately acquainted with a person, whom I would advise you to study."

"Who is that?" said the soldier.

"Yourself," replied Manly.

"Sir, I never applied to any thing with so much care and attention; all the world knows I employ as much time at my looking glass, and have taken as great pains to improve nature, as any gentleman in the regiment."

"I am afraid, said Manly, you have made use of a false mirror; and can't help thinking, if you had bestowed half the expence of time, and thought, in other cultivations, you would not have been so unsuccessful."

"The

“The women are beholden to you; added the justice, for I shall have a better opinion of them as long as I live, for what you have said. I am sorry we are so near York, that you can’t rattle away much more; but, I suppose, we are like to see you in the morning, and then you’ll begin again.”

At this, Cannon began to mutter a few oaths, which Mr. Manly prevented him from uttering loud enough to be understood, by taking occasion to declare, “He should resent an oath, in his presence, as a greater affront than the lie, given by any man.”

This declaration was likewise no small check upon the justice, who was not so versed in the laws of the land, but he sometimes infringed them in this particular. Nothing more passed in their conversation, worthy of remark, till their arrival at York, when the officer excused himself
rom

from spending the evening with his fellow travellers, and the other gentlemen passed an hour together, after Miss Moody retired; when Mr. Manly used many arguments with her father, to induce him to treat her with more lenity than he intended.

The old gentleman, who was rather absurd than a fool, was much pleased with him, and gave him an invitation to his house in Essex, which he called the Sullens; promising, his daughter should be under no confinement 'till her lover arrived from abroad; but, at the same time, declared, he should insist upon her obedience, as to marrying the man he had proposed to her.

Mr. Manly, finding him so determined, thought proper to drop the subject; but assured him, he would accept his invitation; and if he gave him notice of

Mr.

Mr. Hardy's arrival, he would then wait upon him, for he was in hopes by cultivating an acquaintance with his family, of being instrumental in re-establishing the peace of it; at least, he was resolved to use his utmost efforts to bring Mr. Moody and his daughter to a more amicable agreement; and actually proposed to himself as much satisfaction in the completion of this scheme, as any gentleman of rank and fortune could in the ruin of an innocent girl, of her youth and charms.

CHAP. V.

Introduces more Passengers.

THE morning the coach set out from York, the passengers found their company augmented, by the admission of two women, one of which was advanced in years, and her habit and demeanor seemed to pronounce her an attendant upon the other, who appeared young and handsome. A certain air of politeness accompanied all her actions, and her countenance commanded respect; her beauty was of a different nature from that of Miss Moody, whose features were soft; and that innocent timidity in her aspect, seemed rather formed to create complacency, than command admiration; but that of the strange lady had a different effect; she had a dignity in her form, and such an air of grandeur diffused over her features, as struck her beholders with a reveren-

a reverential awe; yet the reservedness of her behaviour did not so much appear to be the result of any consciousness of her own perfections, as of a dejection, visible to the penetration of Mr. Manly. She had the good breeding to return the civilities of her companions, but, in such a manner, as shewed, she rather chose to indulge her pensive humour, than join in their conversation.

The old woman was more liberal of her sentiments, which she freely communicated upon all occasions; she was delighted with the officer, who she concluded, by his dress and assurance, was a great man; and he conjecturing, from the lady's appearance, she was a person of condition, determined to shine in the conversation, in order to attract her notice; to this end, he repeated all the speeches his memory furnished him with out of the plays he had seen; and thinking nothing was more requisite to support

the character of a fine gentleman, and man of spirit, both which epithets he was fond of, than rallying all order and decency, more particularly that state which is deemed honourable by the sober part of mankind: he pointed all his commonplace wit against matrimony, and took occasion to repeat the following lines at once, to shew the extent of his memory, and contempt for the institution.

“ By the joys. Which yet my soul has uncontrouled pursued. I would not turn aside from my least pleasure. Tho’ all thy force. Were armed to bar my way but. Like the birds. Great nature’s commoners that haunt. In woods in meadows. And gardens ruffle the sweets. And taste the finest fruits yet scorn to ask my lord the owner’s leave.”

Having pronounced these lines in the manner above written, with the vehemence

mence and gesture of a stroller, he cast his eyes round the company, to observe what effect they had: but, to his great mortification, they all remained silent, till the old woman called out, “Well! to be sure, ’tis a rare thing to be larned; I warrant you were an Oxford cantab. ’Tis a thousand pities your honour was not a parson, you speak so charming loud, and so fine.”

“Fine! do you call it? said the justice, he talks like a reprobate. Let me tell you, young spark! if you take such freedoms as you talk on, you won’t long keep your neck out of a halter. Odd! if you were to come to rob my gardens and meadows, I’d soon send you a scampering, with a cudgel, or blunderbuss.”

To this speech Cannon returned a contemptuous sneer, and tipped a familiar wink on Mr. Manly, and the strange lady,

expecting they would join with him in laughing at the ignorance of the old gentleman; but neither of them deigned to favour him with a smile, or any mark of approbation. On the contrary, Mr. Manly advised him to learn to read, before he pretended to quote, and expressed his dislike of such libertine principles as he had discovered. His speech had so good an effect, as to put a stop to the insipid discourse of the soldier.

Mr. Manly, remarking the pensiveness of the strange lady, was desirous of receiving some information concerning her, though good manners would not permit him to make any enquiry: but, when they arrived at their baiting place, she and Miss Moody retiring into another room, before dinner, and Cannon being gone to order something in the larder, the justice, whose curiosity was full as great,

great, demanded of the old woman, Who she was?

“Why, please your worship, she is a young lady that was well born, and handsomely brought up, but, by the extravagance of her parents, was left, at their death, in very low circumstances, and so she is going to London, in order to get a place. I lived with madam’s mother, and nursed Miss Bella when she was a baby, and ’twas the wittiest pretty thing!—Lauk! how it used to cry after me! and if any of the maids came near it, it would scratch and tear, and not suffer no body to dress or undress it, but its nown nurse Adams.”

It is very probable, Mrs. Adams would have spent an hour in relating similar proofs of the early wit of her nursling, if the justice had not interrupted her, by asking, From whence they came?

“ From my house, nigh York, where madam has kept ever since her mother died; and when she was purposed to go to London, I could not endure she should go in a strange city, all alone; so I persuaded my husband to spare me to go with her.—I am sure if so be I was single, I would go over the world with my dear child, for I love her as well as if she were my own flesh and blood.”

Mr. Manly here put a stop to the old woman's harangue, by asking, “ If the lady's name was a secret?”

“ A secret! No, sir, she has no cause to be ashamed of it; her name is Miss Bella Murrells.”

“ Murrells! repeated Manly, Was her family originally of Yorkshire?”

“ No, sir, her father was bred and born in Kent, but afterwards he lived in London,

don, and then went in the north, and so he spent his money; for it may well be said, A rolling stone gathers no moss."

"You are right, said the justice, and talk like a good sensible woman; folks that are always changing their country so, never get any thing."

"I fancy, said Manly, I was formerly well acquainted with the lady's father; and I desire, Mrs. Adams, you will give my compliments to her, and tell her so; for it is probable, she may not chuse to converse of her family in the presence of that coxcomb that has just left us; but if she will permit me the honour of passing an hour with her and you, in the evening, I should be glad to pay my respects to her. We will contrive to get rid of the captain; and I dare say Mr. Moody will have no objection to our supping all together."

“ Yes, yes, I should like on’t very, well, for she don’t seem a flirty body; but I and my daughter are engaged to spend the evening with an old friend that lives at Bawtry.”

The return of the ladies and Cannon put a stop to this conversation; and when they entered the coach, Mr. Manly ruminated most part of the afternoon, upon the fate of the young lady’s father, who he remembered thirty years before; and knew him to be possessed of a good estate, careased by the great world; and as he was a man of bright parts, and notoriously ambitious, expected to have seen him raised to some elevated post: he feared, to gratify that passion, he had sacrificed his fortune, and reduced his family to penury, for he had the character of the haughtiest man in the kingdom; but, as pride was his chief foible, and he was, in other respects, a man of good
princi-

principles, it moved Mr. Manly to commiserate his daughter's condition, who appeared to be thrown into a state so much beneath that in which her family had lived; that though he behaved to every person with great civility, the information he had received from nurse was sufficient to make him treat her with more than common respect: and in the evening, when they arrived at Bawtry, and the justice and his daughter went to their friend's house, he desired Miss Murrells and Mrs. Adams would favour him with their company at supper.

Cannon was not a little mortified to find himself excluded this invitation, and Mr. Manly was very well pleased with such a fair opportunity of shewing his dislike to his company.

Miss Murrells debated with herself, whether it was proper for a young woman,

circumstanced as she was, to comply with his request; but when she considered nurse was invited with her, and that Mr. Manly, in his behaviour and discourse, had discovered no tokens of levity, and was well acquainted with her family, she thought a refusal might be imputed to pride or ill breeding, rather than a prudent reserve. She therefore told him, she should be very glad of his company.

Accordingly, they went into the same room; and as soon as they were seated, he, in the politest terms, expressed the pleasure he received from this accidental interview with a descendant of his old acquaintance, Mr. Murrells, and spoke of him in so obliging a manner, as brought tears into her eyes. Observing this conversation had such an effect upon her, he tenderly expressed concern at hearing she was so great a sharer in the misfortunes of her family.

“ Alas!

“ Alas! sir, the reflexion that my sufferings, which you kindly impute to misfortune, were, in reality, occasioned by misconduct, greatly aggravates my affliction.—I need not inform you, who knew my dear father, that he was once master of a genteel fortune, and might have lived in ease and plenty, had he not aimed at grandeur.”

Mr. Manly replied, “ It is so long since I had the pleasure to see him, that I am quite unacquainted with the particulars of his life, from the time he left Kent; and have only heard, in the general, that he was not in such prosperous circumstances as when I knew him.—If a repetition would not encrease your uneasiness, I should be glad to gain further information from you: but, I assure you, madam, if it is disagreeable to you, to grant me this favour, I shall not take it ill; though, I protest, a desire of being serviceable

viceable to a person of your merit, induces me to ask it."

"Your whole deportment, sir, denotes you to be a man of honour; and your compassionate treatment of me, convinces me you have no less humanity: I shall therefore very readily comply with a request occasioned by so kind a motive; though, by revealing my own failings, I run the hazard of forfeiting the good opinion you are pleased to honour me with."

The lady then proceeded to recite what the ensuing chapter presents the reader with.

CHAP.

C H A P. VI.

Miss Murrell's Narrative.

“MY father, sir, at the time he had the honour of your acquaintance was possessed of an hereditary estate of 1000l. a year. His house being situated in the neighbourhood of a certain Earl, who was a compleat courtier, he cultivated an acquaintance with this nobleman, more from a spirit of ambition, I believe, than any real regard to his person. His lordship soon perceived his foible, and soothed it till he had gained his esteem to that degree, that he was proud to lend him what sums of money he demanded, and thought himself highly honoured, when he admitted him into his gaming parties, though he was certain to come off a loser.

“From his lordship's example, he launched out into many other extravagancies,

cies, kept race-horses, and seldom failed to put in for every plate in the kingdom. By these means, and in the entertainment of my lord's followers, who frequently obliged him with their company, he was in a few years necessitated to mortgage; and the payment of interest-money, added to his usual expences, soon reduced his income so low, that he thought proper to solicit his lordship's interest, as he had often offered it, to procure him some place at court. The earl assured him, he might depend upon all the service in his power; but advised him to dispose of his affairs in the country, and reside wholly in town; saying, he was at present buried in obscurity, and his desire could never be so effectually obtained, as by appearing frequently in the circle.

“ In pursuance of this scheme, he sold his estate, paid off his mortgages, and
took

took lodgings in the verge of the court, at which he danced attendance four years. In this time he had considerably encreased his acquaintance amongst persons of quality, who were very profuse in their promises for the next vacant place, (that for which he applied, being always unluckily disposed of before he asked.)

“ His finances and patience were near exhausted, when he determined courageously to demand of the earl 2000l. which he had formerly lent him, when he was in an ill run at play. His lordship put him off with evasions from time to time; but, one morning as he was picking his teeth, in a solitary mood, though amidst a full house, at White’s, he had the pleasure to observe this nobleman alight from his chair, and with a countenance dressed in smiles, approached him.

“ I am

“ I am sorry, Mr. Murrells, said he, my endeavours to serve you, have been hitherto ineffectual, but I am now so happy to have it in my power to accomplish your desire, though not in a manner adequate to your merit, or my wishes; yet it is your business to get footing any way, and I am certain, a man of your qualifications requires only an introduction to be advanced to a more conspicuous appointment.”

“ You may imagine sir, my father was impatient to know what his lordship had allotted for him; My lord, after a long pause, continued, “ You seem Mr. Murrells, to be under concern for the trifle I borrowed of you, and I am also, as it is not just now in my power to return it, otherwise than by securing this post for you.—I assure you, upon my honour, it could not be purchased for less; and whenever you have a prospect of a better,

ter, as it is not to be questioned but you will, you may dispose of this for a larger sum."

"My father now thought he might venture to ask, what the place was? and was answered, that of a gentleman-usher. The mention of this greatly disappointed him, but as he did not chuse to discover his chagrin, he told his lordship, he would consider of his offer, and return him an answer in a few days. My lord affected to be surprized at this cool reply, and said, "You must act as you think proper, Mr. Murrells; I have taken unusual pains in this affair, and preferred your interest to several gentlemen, who persecute me with solicitations upon this occasion: if it should not meet with your approbation, I fear it will not be in my way to be further serviceable to you."

"At

“ At the conclusion of this speech he flung himself into his chair, and moved off, leaving my father very much disgusted at his proposition.”

—— The clock now striking eleven Miss Murrells retired, with Mr. Manly's thanks, and giving him a promise of continuing her narrative the next evening.

CHAP.

C H A P. VII.

Mrs. Adams makes a small Mistake.

M I S S Murrells, had not been in her chamber half an hour, before she found her spirits so depressed, that having vented a shower of tears, she desired nurse would endeavour to procure her a glass of hartshorn and water.

“ Mrs. Adams, half asleep, was passing along the gallery, in order to obey her commands, just as Mr. Moody was at the door of his room: the moment she saw him she called out, “ Good your worship help me!”

“ What is the matter?” “ Oh good sir! I am at my wits end, my poor dear Bella is sick, what shall I do?”

The justice very composedly replied,
 “ ’Tis only a fit of the cholic, good woman;
 man;

man; you should get some cordial.” “ Many thanks to your worship, I have got some cordial below; if your worship will please to taste it, you shall be kindly welcome.

The justice made no other reply to this obliging offer than, “ Good night t’ye, ’tistime to be a-bed.”

Mrs. Adams proceeded down stairs, and finding her basket in which was a large bottle of surfeit water, fraught with that she returned, but not having made sufficient observation of the situation of the chambers, she opened the door of that in which the lieutenant lay, and never perceiving her mistake, she called to her young lady several times, to know why she had put out the candle; receiving no answer, she concluded she was in a swoon: Upon which she uncorked the bottle, and by the glimmering of the moon, found out the bed, which she

she approached, with the bottle in one hand, and laid fast hold of the officer's nose with the other, which she pulled with all her might.

Cannon roused by this rude (though perhaps not unusual) salutation started up, and amidst a volley of oaths, pronounced the word fire! with great vehemence, which nurse in her fright re-echoed; and receiving a blow at the same instant from the soldier, fell prostrate on the floor, leaving the bottle emptying itself into the bed, and pulling the quilt along with her.

The officer greatly annoyed by this inundation fled from it with precipitation, and gained the door; but not having courage to open it, he stood in his shirt bawling "Thieves! Fire!" 'till he had raised the house.

The

The first persons that came to his assist-
was Mr. Manly in his night gown, follow-
ed by the justice in a greasy flannel night-
cap and waistcoat. On their entrance
they demanded the occasion of this alarm?
Cannon replied, “ Ah, gentlemen! it is
a mercy I am living to inform you: though
I have done what man can do to defend
you all; but what is a single arm opposed
to numbers? I was awakened by a gang of
villains, who, I suppose, might imagine
from my appearance, that I travel with a
charge, one of which clapt a pistol to my
very nose; but after maintaining an un-
equal fight two long hours, I peppered
him off, for I heard him fall down dead on
the other side of the bed. As soon as I had
dispatched him, I was composing myself
to sleep, when another of the gang, in a
cowardly manner, threw a bottle of li-
quor at my head, and absconded; he
may be still in the room for what I know,
and that made me give the alarm.”

At

At this the justice seemed inclined to make his retreat, till Mr. Manly, the host and servants, who were all assembled in the room, begged him to assist in searching for the body. The order of their procession, in this expedition, was observed in the following manner: Mr. Manly marched in the van with a pistol in his hand, which he had brought from his own chamber, his servant following with another, the host with his wig on the wrong side outward, without his coat or waistcoat, and reeling with a candle; the justice keeping the like uneven pace, a fright having the same effect upon his nerves that good liquor had upon those of the landlord; the officer, in the figure in which he received them, brought up the rear, bearing his sword in the scabbard.

Whilst they were marching in this manner, the person who carried the light, not
E
being

being able to follow a strait line, wheeled about, and put them into confusion, by extinguishing the candle; the justice thinking he could perceive Mr. Manly's gown, made what haste he could to put himself under his protection, and in his hurry chanced to stumble upon the quilt, which roused nurse, who immediately laid hold of his leg and cried out, "For goodness sake help me, if you be christian people! for I am a dead woman."

This assertion so frightened Moody, who not only gave credit to it, but implicitly believed all the stories he had ever heard of hobgoblins and apparitions, that he was incapable of stirring, had she been disposed to release him. Mr. Manly perceiving he was forcibly held, pulled him away, and desired the quilt might be removed, but the justice objected to that motion, begging he would consider the danger

danger of defying the devil, for he was certain there was some evil spirit under it.

Cannon gave it as his opinion, delivering his sword to Mr. Manly, that it would be proper to run it through the coverlet, and dispatch the villain; adding, "It is not fit such a rascal should be permitted to see the light."

Nurse hearing this again bawled out, and assured them she was was no rogue but Bella's nurse. Upon which Mr. Manly himself removed the quilt, and discovered the poor woman, who, by proper assistance, was brought enough to her senses to explain the cause of this bustle, for which she was complimented with hearty curses from her antagonist; and the justice declaring, women were eternal plagues! turned out of the room.

Mr. Manly, after rallying the soldier on his extraordinary valour, sent for the

landlady, to whose care he consigned nurse, and gave her orders to attend the young ladies. Accordingly she went to Miss Murrell's, and found her almost lifeless; such an effect had the noise she had heard, and the cries of the nurse, which had reached her ears, occasioned. Proper remedies being applied to her, she visited Miss Moody, and found her little better; however nurse's account of the affair relieved her fears, and the ladies passed the remainder of the night together.

C H A P.

C H A P. VIII.

A Discovery.

IN the morning Miss Murrells made many apologies for the disturbance she had innocently occasioned, which every one readily accepted but the officer, who seemed very sullen: when nurse, not to be behind-hand in good manners, asked his pardon in particular: “I am sure your honour can’t take it amiss,” said she, when madam was sick, and I was so tossed with sleep that I did not know which way I went: and for matter of that, your honour frightened me as much as I did you, when you beat me down and shrieked fire.”

“Prithee, old fool! replied the soldier, have done with your nonsense—How could it enter into your stupid head that I was frightened? I own I was cur-

fedly provoked when you emptied your dram bottle into my bed."

"Nay, sir! now I must speak; 'tis enough to provoke the stones in the street, to hear how you talk! I am sure I have most reason to complain for the loss of my water; if you don't mind *spiritual* things, you may well think there's them that do; and you might have saved it if you had not been frightened; for I defy you, or any body in this county, or the next to it, to make any like it."

During this harangue Miss Murrells was in the utmost confusion, and frequently touched her nurse's toes, in order to silence her. Mr. Manly perceiving the young lady's perplexity, said to Mrs. Adams, "I am sorry for your loss; and I dare say Capt. Cannon is too well bred to resent a mere accident as an affront; you must excuse what he says, as no doubt

doubt, his spirits are ruffled by the encounter he has so lately had with the thieves." In uttering these words he cast his eyes sily on the officer.

The old woman no sooner heard the name of the lieutenant, than she surveyed him from head to foot; and after a pause, called out "Why sure it can't be he!" and immediately answering herself, "Yes, but it is to be sure; as I'm alive, 'tis Bob Cannon! Why Mr. Robert! 'tis strange you and I should not know one another better than to fall out. But you are mainly changed since you used to come up and down to my house with sheeps trotters: why, you are grown so fine! a body would hardly know you—Is your aunt Belcher in the King's Arms still?"

Cannon had from the beginning of this speech closed his eyes; but the justice being willing to quicken his apprehension,

gave him a flap on the shoulder, saying, "Come noble captain, tells us what is become of Goody Belcher!"

"As good a conditioned woman, ad-ded nurse, turning to the justice, as your worship would wish to see! and brewed as good drink as any in ten miles round. Well! 'tis mazing to see how things will come about! Who would have thought I should, in a strange country, have happened on my old friend Nick Cannon's son? But, to be sure, you are as like him as if you were spit out of his mouth—Well! could he have lived to have seen you grown up, it would have joyed his heart: but we must all die, nothing more certain—That bull-baiting, and Goody Harper's gin, was the death on him: but he made a good end; and sent for Mr. Perry, the parson, to pray by him when he was drawing on. Well! he killed as fine meat as any butcher in the county

of Effex; and sent as many calves to market in his day—Has your sister Else, that married the woolcomber, any children?

Finding he made her no reply, the justice again accosted him, “Come countryman, why don’t you speak to your old acquaintance?”

To which Cannon answered, in a surly tone, “I shall hold no conversation with a wretch that must be either mad or drunk; for there is not a word of truth in all she has uttered.”

“I am ready to think, said the justice, there is a great deal.—Pray, Mrs. Adams, did you know this gentleman’s guardian?”

“As well, replied nurse, as I know my own brother, tho’ Mr. Robert is pleased to abuse me—Methinks he might be glad to see one that knows all his kin.

THE STAGE COACH.

Yes, sir, Mr. Robert had an old uncle that was a batchelor; he went partners with his father, and grazed besides; and when he died left his kinsman, this gentleman, very handsome, to be sure, that he did; and put him under the care of Mr. Plummet, the glazier, till he should come to be one and twenty years of age. Do I speak true now, pray? Did not your uncle leave you so? By the same token, after you were whipt for robbing the parson's orchard, along with Dick Hazel, did not you run away from Mr. Plummet and list for a soldier? Mayhap, you forgot that, and the preamble you had afterwards with Kitty Pratt; but though I han't seen you since, I heard all about it; and how you were shut up in her father's neathouse."

At this the justice set up a horse-laugh; nor could Mr. Manly, or the ladies, forbear smiling.

"Con-

“ Confound the old beldam! said Cannon, this is not to be borne: to be tra-duced by such a Succubus.”

He was proceeding to many invectives against poor nurse, when she interrupted him, with “ Pray, Mr. Robert, don’t be in a cholerick. I say no harm of your parentage, nor I know none, not I—Did not I say your father killed good meat? And as to your mother, ’tis well known, she was a pains-taking woman, and was up early and down late to keep you tight and wholesome. Is there any arm in all this?

“ None at all, answered Manly, on the contrary, I think you give a very good account of Mr. Cannon’s family.”

“ I am sure, continued nurse, (who was not to be silenced by the frowns and motions of Miss Murrells) if your uncle could look out of his grave, and see how

his money went to make you a captain, 'twould vex him to the heart; for he never could endure red coats; he used to call 'em locusts. He said to me once, before I married, Mary, or Mrs. Mary, I can't certainly say which; but 'twas in the Christmas holidays, and there was soldiers quartered in our town: said he, let me counsel you, never to keep company with a red coat; for, said he, they are sometimes here, sometimes there, said he; and 'tis a dismal life for a young body to trudge after her husband with a knapsack: therefore, said he, take note of what I say; and above all things, have nothing to say to soldiers; for, said he"—

“ Hold, said Miss Murrells, he has said enough in all reason—Pray Mrs. Adams, don't thus engross the conversation.”

“ Oh no, ma'am! no to be sure! but only you know when old acquaintance
meet

meet, one word brings in another; for my share I am no tatler."

"I wish, returned the young lady, you would oblige us with a silent proof of that."

These words closed nurse's lips; and as I fear she has trespassed no less upon the patience of the reader, for his relief, I will end the conference, and the chapter.

CHAP.

CHAP. IX.

The Officer quits the Coach.

BEFORE I proceed further, I think it necessary to make some apology to the reader, for omitting all the oaths and imprecations made use of by the coachmen and their acquaintance, upon the road. I must own, I once thought to excuse this neglect, by observing that such gentlemen, though great travellers, and in an exalted station, always utter them in the vulgar tongue; but, upon perusing several modern writings, I cannot think this plea will be of any force, since, from the care of those authors, the polite world must be perfectly acquainted with that dialect. I have therefore no other to allege in my own defence, but the dread of being found guilty of plagiarism, since nothing of that nature can I recollect to have

have passed in this journey, but what has obtained a place in the works of many of my predecessors in these sort of narratives.—Accept this apology, gentle reader, and permit me to return to the passengers,

Miss Murrells having silenced the talkative old woman, entered into discourse with the other young lady, Mr. Manly and the justice often joining in it, whilst Cannon remained very fullen, till the conversation turned upon the prevailing taste for novels. Mr. Manly said, he had never read any thing of that kind, but the works of Cervantes, till lately he had been persuaded to peruse *Clarissa*, and some of the Covent Garden* justice's performances; and though he formerly had thought such fictions below his notice, he was now not ashamed to aver, there were some, which if attended to, and not run over merely to kill time, capable of

*Henry Fielding Esq.

of yielding profit with amusement, particularly those he had mentioned.

Cannon could by no means allow of the preference given to these, but declared, "They were mere nonsense, and none of them came up to Haywood's."

Being asked, If he had ever read the others? he replied, "No; but I looked into Amelia, one Sunday, when I was in the yawns, and found Major Bath talk such insufferable stuff, and so out of character for an officer, that it would not keep me awake."

"Pray, said Miss Murrells what think you of the Adventures of a Lap-Dog?"

"I never read it," replied the soldier.

"Read it! said the justice, Why was any man such a fool, as to write a book
about

about a lap-dog? There might indeed be something to say to a fox-hound, but a lap-dog, quoth a!"

"I have seen Pompey the Little, said Manly, and must confess was extremely pleased with it."

"Well, every one as they like said the justice; but, if you talk of books, there never will be so fine a one in the world, as Sir Richard Baker's Chronicles."

He then proceeded to relate several incidents mentioned by that author, and made no other mistake but in attributing actions to one prince, which were performed by another: he condemned Henry V. for resigning his crown and commended King John for his piety and his courage in conquering France.

To all this, the officer was very attentive, and seemed to regard the old gentleman with some degree of veneration, declaring, "He should not have suspected that he had been so well versed in the History of Nations; and owned, though he had too much vivacity to pore over such learned treatises, he was always pleased to hear them talked of."

This compliment brought the justice into a better humour with him; and, in all likelihood, they had passed on to the end of their journey tolerably satisfied with each other, had not nurse's officiousness again fired Cannon: for not being so readily attended at the inn where they dined, as they expected, Mrs. Adams went in search of the hostess, and severely rebuked her for her neglect, telling her, she was sure, if she knew one of her guests was nephew to Mrs. Belcher, that
kept

kept the King's Arms, she would not think it below her to tend upon them herself, as she must needs suppose he knew the ways of such houses, being, as it were, bred up in them.

Upon this the landlady entered the room with a low curtsy, and demanded which of the gentlemen was nephew to Mrs. Belcher?

No one answering, nurse pointed to Cannon. "Sir, continued she, this gentlewoman tells me, things arn't to your mind: I am very sorry for it; perhaps we have not all the accommodation that is to be found in the King's Arms; though I'll be bold to say, you will not meet with better between here and London; and you may have a cup of better ale than ever you drew at your aunt's: I desire you will be pleased to taste that, before you run down the Globe."

At

At this, the officer began to swear, till checked by Mr. Manly: he directed his rage against Mrs. Adams, whom he called the devil's grandmother.

Nurse positively denied the assertion, protesting, she never had a child in her life, and if she had, she hoped it would not have been so graceless as to deny its parentage. But to be sure, Mr. Robert, (added she) you think I am grown superanimated."

It was no small trouble to Mr. Manly, and Miss Murrells, to compose this ruffle: and the latter was once more obliged to lay an embargo upon nurse's tongue.

At their quitting the coach, Cannon swore he would not pass another day in company, where he had been so traduced, but would take post-horses for town. No
one

one replying to this but Mr Manly, who wished him a good journey, he left the passengers to pursue his scheme.

Miss Murrells had, by this time, entertained so good an opinion of Miss Moody, that when Mr. Manly reminded her of her promise, she said, if they might all pass the evening together, she should chuse to continue her narrative in her hearing; but she feared Mr. Moody would not be pleased to attend to such a discourse."

"Yes, yes, answered he, you may talk away for all me; I never give heed to women's tittle-tattle—Let me have but my pipe and my tankard, at t'other end of the room, I shall soon fall asleep, and you won't disturb me."

This being settled, they proceeded to supper, after which, Miss Murrells resumed

resumed her history, as the reader may see, if he should not be more inclined to take a nap with the justice, than go to the next chapter.

CHAP.

C H A P. X.

Miss Murrells's History continued.

AS soon as Mr. Manly had performed the chaplain's office, and the justice had charged his pipe, and seated himself at a distance from the rest of the company, Miss Murrells began, addressing Mr. Manly.

“ I think, sir, I told you of the earl's offering the post of a gentleman-usher to my father.—I have heard him say, he spent that day, and the ensuing night, in contemplating his unhappy circumstances, and reflecting on his lordship's offer and behaviour, from which he plainly perceived, this was all the return he would ever make for the loan; and tho' it was far below his expectations, he determined to accept it, flattering himself,
it

it would be introductory to a more considerable place.

Accordingly, he was instated in it, and performed the office some time; when finding the revenues not equal to the expences attending it, he endeavoured to repair his fortune by marriage. The court afforded him little prospect of that, as I have heard him remark; the ladies that most frequented the circle, were upon the same scheme; he therefore sought the acquaintance of wealthy tradesmen, in the city; and at the house of one of these chanced to meet my mother, who was an orphan just come of age, with twelve thousand pounds at her own disposal; she had likewise the advantage of a person so agreeable, that my father has often affirmed, if he had known her when he was possessed of the estate he had squandered, she would have been his choice, provided

provided she had not brought him a shilling. My mother no less approved of him; and having hitherto lived in the city, was delighted with the thoughts of residing at the other end of the town. A few weeks after this introduction completed my father's wishes. Upon his marriage, he took an house in St. James's Street, and set out, in a manner, far above his income.

“ As he was still ambitious of a superior appointment, he failed not to pay due court to, and remind those whose promises he had engaged, whenever there was a probability of a vacancy. He was advised to get a seat in the house, as the most likely method to facilitate his wishes, and recommended to a borough, having laid out my mother's fortune in a purchase to qualify him. At the election he was strenuously opposed; but, by the favour of the returning officer, was declared

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duly

duly elected. His opponent demanded a scrutiny, yet that did not prevent him from making his appearance in parliament. The carrying his point thus far was attended with such an expence, as made a considerable breach in his fortune; and his antagonist preferring a petition against him, he was, by the majority of the house, obliged to relinquish his seat, before he had an opportunity of giving a single vote. The chagrin he felt from his disappointment, joined to that occasioned by the expence he had been at, and the being necessitated to part from his place, to supply his agents in this unlucky affair, made him resolve to leave the town, where his schemes were continually frustrated, and reside upon the estate he had purchased in Suffolk.

“ I was then very young, and this good woman, who lived in Essex, had the care of me till I was five years old, at which

which time I was sent to one of the most elegant boarding-schools near town. My parents were extremely fond of me; and though my father had met with such ill success in his attempts towards raising himself in the world, his views were still soaring; and all the vexation he had experienced was not sufficient to deter him from exciting the same sort of emulation in my young mind.

“He educated me in the most extravagant manner; and both he and my mother, by ill-timed panegyrics on my person, nourished that vanity which I inherited. My governess was desirous to spare no cost or pains in adorning my outside, and cautioned never to insist on my needleperformances, reading, or writing, when she found it was not agreeable to me to prosecute them as contradiction would make me fret and spoil my complexion and features. My father was

ever exorting me to be genteel; and he did not question but he had still interest enough about court to place me there, as a maid of honour; and when I was in that situation, it must be my own fault if I did not match with quality. My poor mother had imbibed the same chimerical notions.

“ Their retiring into the country had been a fortunate step, if they could have contentedly kept within the bounds of their income; but that was much too scanty to defray the expences of an equipage and retinue of servants; and as my father’s inclinations for shew, would not permit him to retrench, he was again obliged to mortgage.

“ When I attained to my sixteenth year, perceiving his hopes blasted, as to my preferment in the way he intended, he took me from school.

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“ It happened, just then, the daughter of a doctor in divinity, in the neighbourhood, was enquiring for an easy service, and being recommended to our family, my parents engaged her to attend upon me. She was four years older than myself, had received a genteel education; and with a person extremely agreeable, had a good understanding admirably cultivated, and a great sweetness of disposition. Her father, Dr. Godwin, had met with misfortunes which rendered him incapable of making such a provision for his family as they deserved, though he had from his situation, during his life, an opportunity of educating his children handsomely at a small expence. This gentlewoman’s sensible conversation I should have listened to with pleasure, and been ready to have consulted her opinion upon many occasions, had not the treatment of my parents, (who behaved to her as much my inferior) made me

think it would be derogating from my rank, to use her with the freedom of a friend.

“ Our country habitation soon grew insipid to me; and the conversation of my father and mother perpetually turning upon the pleasures they experienced amongst the beau monde, created in me a longing desire to shine in that sphere, and to be a partaker of such enchanting amusements. Their haughty deportment having deterred the best families in the neighbourhood from visiting them, we saw none but spruce farmers and their wives, who civilly paid their respects to us; but observing that my parents ridiculed their awkward kindness, I caught their manner, and regarded them with insolent contempt. I was continually teasing my father to return to the gay scenes he had left, and declared I could not support the life we led.

“ Sally

“ Sally Godwin proposed books as a relief to my solitude, but my disposition was too volatile to relish so sedate an amusement: then a pad was purchased for me, and attended by a servant, I took an airing every day, for a week, when the fear of injuring my complexion by so robust an exercise, made me lay that aside; and not being able to find any diversion to substitute in its place, I had just persuaded my father to quit the country, when notice was given of a public assembly to be held in a market town, within reach of our house. The thoughts of this reconciled me to the country, till it was over, and preparations for my appearance at the ball engrossed my time, from the day it was advertised; and though I had great variety of fine silks, I solicited, and easily obtained an exceeding rich new suit of cloaths from London.

“ Resolving to be very particular in my dress, in order to set fashions, and ridicule

dicule my followers, I racked my invention for ornaments that might render me conspicuous and astonish my beholders: I had then tolerable hair, which I caused to be curled after the mode of a picture drawn from my great grandmother, and placed a coronet of artificial flowers, interspersed with what few jewels we had upon the top of my head. At the glass I diverted myself with imagining the surprise the country gentry would express at the sight of such a splendid figure.

“ Thus adorned, I was going to set out with my father, in his chariot, when a coach drove up to our gate, out of which stepped an elderly relation of my mother’s, a wealthy merchant, Fuller by name, and his nephew Truelove, who was in partnership with him. The old gentleman was a blunt, honest man; the younger modest and ingenious; remarkably handsome, but perfectly plain in his dress.

dress, though genteel in his manner. Their arrival excessively chagrined me, as I knew Mr. Fuller would not accompany us, and my father was too complaisant to leave him. My cousin, after saluting my mother, turned to me; and looking as I thought, in an ill-bred manner, said, "Why cousin Bell! what—a—what's the meaning of all these fallals; why child! you are prinked up like a Bartlemy baby!—What a shame! masquerades in the country?" I only gave him a look of contempt.

My mother replied, "No, no, Mr. Fuller, we have no such polite diversions here: Miss Murrels is going to a dance; but as she is certain of such good company at home, and has no particular engagement, I dare say it will be more agreeable to her to stay with us."

"To this speech I returned a significant glance, which she comprehended

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the meaning of, and immediately said,
 “ My dear, as you are ready, if you
 chuse to go, my cousin will excuse you;
 and perhaps Mr. Truelove may not dis-
 like to attend you: I am sorry my ill
 health will not permit me to accompany
 you: but Sally shall this moment dress,
 and wait upon you. As you cannot meet
 with any of your superiors, you need not
 scruple to introduce your servant; for in
 these country balls, where every crea-
 ture is admitted for half a crown, you
 may expect to find people as low as
 her.”

“ My countenance began to clear up
 at this proposition, and I condescended
 to assist Sally in equipping herself. Mr.
 Truelove begged he might be of our par-
 ty; and though in my heart I despised
 him, I granted his request; but desired
 he would take his uncle's coach, that Sal-
 ly and I might go alone: As he entreated
 me

me to dance with him before Mr. Fuller, I could not refuse him; though I was not a little mortified to observe his cloaths had no lace or embroidery about them. He seemed so regardless of these essentials (as I thought them) as never to compliment my person, or my taste, in the disposition of my attire.

“ Piqued at his insensibility, I said to Sally, when we drove off, what a shocking vexatious accident it was that brought old Fuller, and his nephew to-day! Bless me! cried she, what has happened? Vext to perceive she either did not, or would not understand me, I remained in full silence, till she earnestly begged me to explain myself. I then confessed I was shocked at the thoughts of my being introduced, at my first appearance in the country, by a merchant; and one, says I, that seems to pride himself in taking all opportunities of declaring his way of life, who does not even in his habit affect to give people a higher notion of him.”

“ Is

“ Is this your terrible affliction, ma’am? said she, I am certain if Mr. Truelove answers your description, his acquaintance will do you more honour than the adoration of fifty coxcomical fops.”

“ Well, says I, I wish he would make his court to you, for you are equally mean and solemn; and if you were married, might lead a comfortable insipid life together.”

“ I thank you ma’am, said Sally, but I have not the vanity to imagine my little share of merit and fortune will ever intitle me to a man of his; and to speak freely, I think it very probable you will receive his first addresses.”

“ You cannot sure entertain such a thought! (returned I, colouring with indignation) If I supposed the man would have the insolence ever to mention such a thing,

thing, I would never exchange a syllable with him."

"Ma'am, answered she, I must take the liberty to say, as he is your mama's relation, it would not be genteel to affront him: he may have no such intentions; but if he should, I fancy all your well-wishers would advise you to accept a gentleman of his probity, honour, and fortune: I am sure you have no dislike to his person."

"The man is well enough, said I, but who can support the thoughts of being a wife to a man who is known for a trader in all parts of the world? And pray why may not I hope for a title?"

"By this time we were arrived at the ball-room, into which Mr. Truelove handed me; and I observed, with pleasure, the eyes of the company turned towards me:
regard-

regarding them with the like attention, I was much disappointed to perceive, instead of the aukward creatures my fancy had figured to me, many polite ladies, who far surpassed me in elegance; and could no conceive how such people should inhabit a part of the world which I looked upon as a desert. At my entrance I imagined the grandeur of my appearance caused the whispers which I perceived ran through the room; but this pleasing error was soon removed, by over-hearing the conjectures of a number of ladies, who sat very near me, and agreed amongst themselves, that I must certainly belong to the stage.

“ French dances were concluded, and no notice taken of me; and I was wishing myself at home, when a grand personage, who seemed to be about forty, entered the assembly, covered with embroidery: the splendour of his figure attracted my eyes,

eyes, and I secretly wished mine might have the like effect upon him. He presently moved up to me, and desired the honour of dancing country dances with me. My pre-engagement to Truelove obliged me to decline the offer, though it cut me to the heart; yet resolving, if it were possible, to prevent any body else from engrossing the conversation of this fine man, I told him, as the company were entire strangers to me, I did not chuse to mix with them; but should be glad, the little time I staid, to meet with one as idle as myself to converse with."

He answered, "No lady but your fair self, ma'am, could have induced me to join in this assembly; but as I had a transient view of your charms when your equipage passed mine, I burnt with impatience for a nearer, and should have flown into the room after you, had I not been retarded

retarded by a numerous meeting of my fellow-countrymen and friends, whose health and welfare I have so much at heart, that no force less potent than your divine beauty could have drawn me from them, on the evening of my entrance into this borough: however, ma'am, if you will favour me with your heavenly converse, I shall esteem myself at the very quintessence of felicity."

"I could hardly forbear laughing at his affectation; but there was so much elocution in his habit, which bespoke him a man of distinction, that I was soon reconciled to his language: by what he had said, I conjectured he was a candidate for a seat in parliament; and was the more confirmed in this notion from the appearance of two black servants in laced liveries, one of which came up to him, and in my hearing, told him there had been a great concourse of people at his inn to enquire

enquire for him. Upon which he dismissed the fellow, with orders to entertain all that came.

“ Mr. Truelove claiming my promise, I excused myself on account of the head-ach; but said I begged he would dance with Sally. He seemed a good deal confounded; but as I made the proposal before her, he was, in good manners, obliged to offer her his hand, which she accepted, and joined the dancers, whilst the fine stranger entertained me with an account of his travels abroad; adding, there is not a town in England which I have not visited, and was always so fortunate as to meet with a handsome reception.”

“ I own I thought such an encomium upon himself somewhat fulsome; but my girlish vanity was flattered by the preference he gave me to the rest of the ladies.

When

When the ball broke up, I suffered him to lead me out, leaving Truelove to escort Sally; and could not help making comparisons in my mind between the two gentlemen, very little to the advantage of the latter."

The justice, at this instant, starting out of his sleep, overturned the table before him; and being rouzed by the noise, bestowed an equal number of oaths and kicks upon the board: having vented his passion, without making any apology for interrupting the company, he told them it was time to set out for the land of Nod. Upon which they all retired to their respective apartments.

C H A P. XI.

Miss Murrells continues her History.

I N the morning when the company left Grantham, Mr. Manly, and Miss Moody, desired Miss Murrells to proceed with her story. Accordingly Miss Murrells went on:—“ I informed you of my quitting the assembly.—All the way home I could find no subject for discourse but the fine stranger, who had taken such possession of my thoughts, that the next day at dinner I proposed taking an afternoon’s airing to the town where the ball had been. My father, Mr. Fuller, and Mr. Truelove came into the scheme, and attended me there.

“ I alighted at a milliner’s in the market place; and observing a stage built up enquired the meaning of it? and was answered

swered it belonged to a mountebank. Having never seen one, I accepted the offer the mistress of the shop made me of a dish of tea, and a station at the window, from whence I might see the humours of the doctor and his party-coloured attendant. Mr. Truelove chose to stay with me rather than attend the gentlemen to the tavern; and there were three other ladies in the room, who had a like curiosity with myself: but, guess my confusion, when I saw the very identical fine beau, who entertained me at the assembly, ascend the stage by a ladder, in the same habit he wore the night before. I was so confused I had no patience to hear his harangue to the crowd that was gathered about him: to add to my perplexity, I observed all the ladies turned their eyes upon me, supposing, no doubt, I was one of his retinue; for I then called to mind what was said of my belonging to the stage. At the first glance they cast upon me I
left

left the room, Mr. Truelove following me, who, I perceived, with difficulty restrained his laughter, but had too much good manners to encrease my mortification by rallying me upon the quality of my new acquaintance.

“ I sent to the tavern to let my father know I was indisposed, and should be glad to be at home; and in this I said but truth, for I was sick with vexation. The servant returned and told me, he would call on me in less than an hour: horridly out of humour at this delay, I vented some of my spleen upon the milliner, by tumbling over her goods, and finding fault with every thing I saw. At last I fixed upon a piece of ribbon, and ordered her to make me up a stomacher of that dab. She was civiler than I deserved; being a gentlewoman of good family, who had entered into business, purely to enable her to discharge the debts of an
extrava-

extravagant husband, and educate her children: yet such were the foolish notions I had imbibed, that I regarded her in the light of a dependant.

“ Mr. Truelove made some amends for my insolent behaviour, by treating her with the respect that was her due, and making a purchase of more value.

“ Whilst I was sitting there the mountebank entered the shop, and with an air of familiarity addressed a complimentary speech to me, to which I made no answer: he then invited me, and the gentleman with me, to partake of a collation which he said he had prepared at his lodgings: I was so amazed at this insolent proposal, that I could return no reply; and he misconstruing my silence, began to be still more free in his conversation; and taking me by the hand, “ Why this reserve? Dear madam, it is but a step.—Don’t you see
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the Sun? (pointing to a sign) I could almost have wished I had never seen it. Withdrawing my hand, and putting on the most scornful look I could assume, "Whence proceeds this impertinence?" said I. The fellow seemed not at all abashed, till Mr. Truelove, lifting up his cane, advised him to march off, if he did not chuse to be corrected for his assurance: at this threat he let go my hand, and rapping out an oath at me, ran off. Upon his departure I sent again to desire the coach, which in a few minutes was ready, and I returned home with my heart full of grief, which I dared not give vent to, lest I should further expose my folly.

"This disagreeable accident made me re-urge my parents to go to town; they at last consented, and we accompanied Mr. Fuller and his nephew, after they had passed six weeks with us; in which time Mr. Truelove made professions of love

love to me, in so artless, sincere, and disinterested a manner, that had not my head been turned by vanity, and the notion of filling a more elevated station in life, I must have thought myself extremely fortunate in his good opinion; but such was my pride and arrogance, I thought punishment was due to his presumption, and accordingly treated him with contempt: he was sensibly affected by this behaviour, and employed all his eloquence to obtain my approbation.

“ Upon our arrival in town, he continued his solicitations, but never could obtain a favourable word or look in return; though I will own, even then, his character, deportment, and sincerity had touched my heart; and I found nothing wanting but a title to render him the most agreeable of mankind; and that, I had no notion he would ever obtain; and therefore determined to conquer the secret

cret liking I found I began to entertain, and to see if in time I might not meet with an offer more satisfactory to my darling passion.

“ My parents having taken an house in a polite neighbourhood, were soon visited by persons of the best fashion, and I was initiated into all the prevailing amusements of the gay world; insomuch that in a few months ridottos, routs, masquerades, and operas were quite familiar to me: in short, I never absented myself from any place where I might see and be seen; but some time elapsed before my design was answered, and Mr. True-love continued his importunities unrivalled, till one day I attended my father to the rehearsal at St. Pauls, where being pressed for room, and heated with the crowd, I fainted: a gentleman who sat near me, assisted my father in conveying me into the body of the church; and by

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giving.

giving me air, and applying spirits to my temples, I recovered so far as to be able to get into the coach.

“ The complaisant stranger applied to my father for information concerning our residence; saying, with permission, he would do himself the honour to enquire after my health; my father returned him thanks for his civility, and gave him an invitation to his house. I had time enough to remark an unaffected concern in the countenance of this gentleman, and something very amiable, modest, and polite, in his person and demeanor. The next morning he made his appearance, and proved to be Sir Charles Farewell, a young baronet, whom my father had frequently heard mentioned, as a gentleman of large fortune and unblemished character.

“ From that day he began to grow intimate in our family, and in less than a
month

month acknowledged the impression he received on his heart, from the time he saw me at the rehearsal, induced him to seek my acquaintance; and from a fuller knowledge of my qualifications, (the word he chose to use) he now declared himself my lover, and made an overture of marriage, which I hearkened to with greater satisfaction than I chose he should perceive; for though I was elated at the thoughts of such a conquest, my pride would not suffer me to appear so; and, with an air of dignity, I gave him to understand a long course of address could alone intitle him to my regard.

“ This haughty deportment seemed not to dishearten him, and he continued very punctual in his attendance upon me, whilst I, who really preferred him to Truelove, for no other reason but his title, suffered his addressee more from an ungenerous design of mortifying the former,

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than

than from the least inclination to accept of the latter, whose visits I admitted, without giving him any further encouragement to hope for success.

“ Sally Godwin, who still continued with us, was one morning playing a lesson upon my harpsichord, accompanying it with her voice, by my order, when Sir Charles entered the parlour; she would have withdrawn immediately, but he begging her to favour him with a song, she modestly complied with his request, and then left the room. As soon as she was out of hearing, he asked what lady that was? and when I answered, my servant, expressed great surprize, saying, he should have imagined by her appearance, and her skill in so polite a science, she had been of a higher rank. I replied, peevishly, “ You have strange ideas, Sir Charles, but, I assure you, the girl is but a poor parson’s

son's daughter, that we took into our family out of charity."

"Our discourse then turned upon the lovers topic; he renewed his offers, and pleaded for a positive answer: I made a very unsatisfactory and ambiguous reply, and he moved off apparently chagrined. He had not been long gone before the nobleman, who repaid my father's loan, by the place I formerly mentioned, came to visit us, and brought with him his son Lord Courtall. Though my father had suffered so much in the course of his former acquaintance with this earl, he could not avoid looking upon this unsought renewal of it as an honour; but I have since been informed, he was much less indebted to his lordship's good will than he supposed; for my lord, conjecturing by his return to town, that he had met with an accession of fortune, thought resuming their acquaintance might turn to his ac-

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count;

count; but in that point he was soon undeceived, and consequently we had no more the honour of his company. His son, at this interview, was very lavish of encomiums on my person, and told me, his heart felt the effects of my charms, in terms becoming an Oroondates. I thought this procedure rather too abrupt and disrespectful, but reflections on his rank and the force of my attractions, apologized to me for his temerity, and made me regard my former lovers with contempt, proportionable to the inequality of their births, compared with my noble admirer.

“ Sir Charles, tired with a fruitless suit, (or what is as probable, convinced a person of my turn did not deserve his application) declined visiting us. My lord still continuing his ardent addresses, the baronet’s defection, gave me no concern. His lordship said, indeed, he could not pretend to marry at present
for

for fear of disobliging an old infirm nobleman, his uncle, from whom he had great expectations, and was perpetually lamenting his dependance upon him and his father. As I gave him no positive reason to say I approved of his addressee, I was so weak as to think receiving his visits would only make me considerable in the eye of the world, without the least apprehension of more disagreeable consequences.

“ About this time Sally Godwin met with a relation in town, who was the wife of a gentleman of fortune, that lived in Berkley Square, and having received an invitation to reside with them, upon another footing, she desired to be discharged from my service. This moment was very agreeable to me, who had conceived a dislike to her from the time Sir Charles Farewell honoured her with his notice, and only wanted a pretence, which her

conduct would not afford, to rid myself of a person, who though I despised for her indigence, I secretly envied for her superiority in many other respects.

“ From the time I had commenced an acquaintance with Lord Courtall, Mr. Truelove had been engaged in the country, in adjusting affairs relating to an estate which he had purchased; and, upon his return, little suspecting he had so formidable a rival, flew to me with affectionate tenderness, and vented the sentiments of his heart in the most pathetic expressions of virtuous love.

“ I must confess, to my eternal shame! I was conscious of his merit; and yet was so biassed by the notion of grandeur, as to stifle my inclination in his favour; and as I could not entirely suppress it to conceal under the mask of disdain, what my pride had in vain endeavoured to extirpate,

tirpate,

tirpate, I continued, therefore, to be ! have to him in a manner so unsuitable to his worth, that he told me he perceived it was impossible for him long to support himself under the uneasiness my rigour occasioned ; and that despairing to make any impression upon my heart, he was resolved to quit the kingdom, and try, by absence, to subdue his unfortunate passion. Little imagining he was in earnest and willing to teize him, I replied you cannot pursue a method more agreeable to me, since that must deprive me of a great deal of impertinence,”

“ To this speech he returned a low bow, and made his exit, without vouchsafing me a reply ; but, though his tongue was silent, his eyes plainly informed me, that his heart was too full for utterance ; and had it not been for fear of being thought guilty of too sudden a condescension, I should have softened his adieu

with gentler terms. No sooner was he gone, but I determined to atone for this error, by a gentler reception of him the next time he came, which I expected would be in a few days: however, he never gave me an opportunity; for without taking any further notice of me, he embarked the following week for the East-Indies, from whence he has never returned. When I was informed of his voyage, I found my mind greatly agitated, and perceiving he was past recall, my ardent desire for a title abated; and by the concern I felt for his absence, I was convinced, he, of all my lovers, was nearest my heart."

The passengers stopping to breakfast, Miss Murrells paused, till they were replaced in the coach.

CHAP. XII.

*Recommended to the Perusal of young
Women of great Beauty and small
Fortune.*

BEFORE Miss Murrells proceeded in her story the justice said to her, "Pray what portion did you expect, that your mind run so much upon lords?" Alas! sir, as I was kept intirely ignorant of the situation of my father's circumstances, I knew not what, but conjectured, by our way of life, it would be very considerable; being an only child, I thought I must inherit all."

"Oh you did, said the justice, very fine truly! that girls should have such conceits! So, I suppose, if you had gone and married some prodigal spend-thrift, you thought your father was bound

to maintain him! But, let me tell you, young gentlewoman! though a man may chance to have but one child, he is a fool if he don't keep his money in his power, to make her dutiful. Odd! If my daughter was to do such a thing, don't you think I could find folks enough to leave my substance to."

Mr. Manly perceiving Mr. Moody's roughness had a little disconcerted the lady, desired he would take some other opportunity of speaking his sentiments, and not break the thread of a story, that he had begged her to relate.

"Well, Child, said the old gentleman, I'll talk with you about this matter by and by; in the mean time go on, and let's know how you went to work with your lords and knights, and baronets."

Miss Murrells still more confused at this, remained silent, till the well-bred
solicitations

solicitations of Mr. Manly, induced her to proceed in the following manner.

“ Every day, my chagrin increased for Truelove’s departure; nor was it in the power of Lord Conrtall, who attended me as my shadow, to drive that best of men from my thoughts. I was one morning musing upon his merit and my own blindness, when my father came into the room with a news-paper in his hand, which he flung upon the table, saying, he had not patience to see beggars so set up; and left me without explaining the meaning of his words.

“ When he retired, I glanced my eyes upon the following paragraph.

“ Last Sunday was married at St. Margaret’s, Westminster, Sir Charles Farewell, Baronet, possessed of a considerable estate in Cheshire, to Miss Sally Godwin of Berkley-Square.

“ This

“ This intelligence affected me no less than my father; and I was weak enough to shed tears, at the advancement of so deserving a girl. No one, who has not a heart immersed in vanity, can conceive the mortification I endured from the certainty, that a menial servant of mine was preferred to a title before me. My father seemed to grow every day more uneasy; and I was so much so, that he proposed a trip to York races, under pretence of amusement; my mother and I came readily into the scheme: and that diversion being ended, he took us to Beverly, telling us, it was a pretty town and worth seeing: my nurse resided in that neighbourhood; her husband, by the death of a relation, inheriting a cottage with a small parcel of land to it; they had left Essex, and had lived upon it some time.”

“ And

“ And a pretty plot ’tis, added nurse, though I have many a time wished - I had never gone; but you know folks must go where their husbands will have them, as the bible says. However I think, for my share, we dropt out of the frying-pan into the fire; but we are not our own keepers.”

Mr. Manly desired Mrs. Adams would not interrupt the lady, and Miss Murrells went on.

“ When we had seen Beverly, my father declared, he liked the place so well, he would take a house there for the remainder of the summer; a proposal that was not relished by me, as it was a remove from my noble admirer; but he was too much set upon the project to be dissuaded from it; and I consoled myself with a notion, that my lord would find me out in any part of the habitable globe. In
this

this conjecture I was not mistaken; for under pretence of visiting Scarborough, he came to our house, and was well received by my parents; he informed us, that his uncle, Lord Richly, had a gout sore, which his physician pronounced to be fatal; and if so, the addition he was to receive to his fortune by his death, would enable him to follow his inclinations, as to marriage, in spite of the earl. My parents approved of his lordship's pretensions; and I, with the hopes of out-doing Sally in grandeur, hearkened to them with more satisfaction than I should otherwise have done: for, though I admired his rank, I perceived him to be of an unamiable disposition, and extremely ignorant and illiterate.

“ At the approach of winter, when I expected to return to town, my mother told me, I must be content to pass it in the country, their income being so reduced.

duced, that they were obliged to retire to a situation, attended with less expence.—My lord made us several visits during the winter: in the following spring, my father was seized with an illness, that threatened death from the first, and baffled all the art of medicine. Finding his end approaching, he called my mother and I to his bed-side, and in a feeble voice, made a pathetic speech to us, imploring our pardon, for extravagantly spending our fortune; he acknowledged he had been much to blame, in so long concealing his desperate circumstances; but the hopes he had of seeing me advantageously settled for life, had been the chief motive for retarding the declaration he now made; which was, that he had parted from his whole fortune, and purchased a joint annuity for his own and my mother's life; out of which he proposed, if it had pleased God to prolong his life, to save something towards
a provision

a provision for me, in case my present views should be disappointed; but as he perceived he could not recover, he earnestly recommended me to my mother, exhorting her (who might in all probability, live many years) to make a reserve, of at least one-half of her annuity, which was 300*l.* in all, for me.

“ Having given us this information, he put up a fervent petition, to avert the wrath of heaven from his child: which he said had certainly been intailed upon him, for a crime his father had been guilty of, in not only refusing his protection to a near relation, that was left an orphan destitute of a provision; but had employed various artifices, to deprive him of what he would have otherwise received from his grandfather. This unfortunate person, he told us, had not been heard of for near sixty years, and he had reason to fear, his father's
cruelty.

cruelty extended still further; and that I being left in the like helpless situation, might experience the like oppression from the world.

“ Alas! I find his fears were prophetic, since I have little prospect of being able to surmount the difficulties I must encounter. However, I hope the scheme I have formed to correct the errors of my misguided youth, and to render myself useful and inoffensive in the station to which I am reduced, will be a means to mitigate the punishment due to the crimes committed by our family.

“ This relation from my father, served to enhance my grief for his death, which happened the next day.—My mother and I remained disconsolate at Beverly, living with great frugality, in order to pay some debts my father had left undischarged, and

and to secure something for me. Lord Courtall made us a consolatory visit (as he called it) but, having received information of my indigence, changed the manner of his address; and without any ceremony, threw off the mask of virtue, which he had hitherto assumed, and openly professed the libertine, making my poor mother an offer of doubling her income, and me a settlement of 400*l.* a year, provided I would consent to be his in an illegal way,

“ No one can conceive the anguish which I endured at this treatment; the words of a dying parent, and the warning he gave against indulging ambitious views, had exploded many which I had cherished; and his example was too recent a proof of the fatal consequence attending such an infatuation, for me not to be better prepared to repulse such a shocking proposition, than my ungenerous lover expect-

expected; we rejected it with disdain, and I told him, after upbraiding him with the baseness of his proceedings, that I would sooner beg my bread, than earn it at so dear a rate.

“ He ridiculed all that I alledged of this nature, till finding me resolute, he put on a more gentle air; and made use of every argument such a cause could furnish, to induce me to co-habit with him during the life of his father or uncle; and offered to bind himself in the solemnest manner, to make me his wife, as soon as either of them died.

“ All this served to encrease my detestation of him, and I expressed my abhorrence of the way of life he proposed in terms suitable to offended virtue; then intreated him to leave me, sincerely protesting it should my chief care for the future to avoid his sight. He obeyed me

as

as to leaving Beverly, but pestered me with letters containing professions of love, which, as such propositions were annexed to them, I deemed insults. These were a continual source of disquiet to my mother and self; and the remembrance of the worthy and disinterested Truelove heightened my uneasiness.

“ As a further addition to my affliction, I was deprived of my mother in less than two years, and left to make my way through the world with only one hundred pounds, all we could save besides being expended in the payment of debts, and discharging the expences of the funeral. In my mother’s illness, this good woman (turning to nurse) came to us, and performed those necessary offices which my grief would not permit me to attend to, and then was so kind as to offer me a refuge in her house, where I have resided twelve months; and being loth to be longer

ger

ger troublesome to her, I have undertaken this journey, in hopes I shall be able to get into some reputable service; though, as the acquaintance we made in town were only such as our appearance then procured, I know not how I should be received by any of them in the figure I now make."

"Why should not you apply to Lady Farewell?" said Mr, Manly.

"Oh, sir! with what face can I trouble her, after the insolent treatment she has met with from our family?—It is not pride, I assure you, that prevents me from making my case known to her, but from a full conviction of my folly:—My own heart condemns me, and I cannot expect a more favourable sentence from one less partial."

"If the lady be such as you describe, said Manly, your own acknowledgments
she

she must deem a sufficient atonement for faults countenanced by the example of your parents, and proceeding from a giddy vanity, too often the attendant of youth and flattered beauty. But, pray, Miss Murrells, how did you pass your time at Mrs. Adams's.?"

"In endeavouring, sir, to recall my lost hours. I applied closely to my needle and other domestic affairs, that might qualify me for the station I am to appear in for the future: and sometimes, for improvement and relaxation, I read such books, as the rector of the parish (a humane sensible old gentleman) recommended to my perusal; and should have been well contented in this situation, had not my retreat been discovered, and I again exposed to the persecutions of the man I loath, on account of his principles. Lord Courtall has employed all artifices to corrupt the integrity of my honest host
and

and his wife; but they were not to be terrified by his threats, or bribed by his offers, to assist him in the base design he had formed to render me one of the most despicable of human beings. It was but last week he was with them, and his appearance hastened my journey to town, where I purpose taking a private lodging for the present; and Mrs. Adams has promised to stay with me until I am so fortunate as to be fixed in service."

"Aye! I'll never leave you till then, not I; for a friend in need, is a friend indeed: not but I would wish you to get into some shop, as you can work very neat at your needle; for service is no inheritance now-a-days; and you have been so used to be humoured, that you would think much to be snapt at, as you may be if you light upon a difficult mistress. Well! to be sure, 'tis a solemn thing for one that has had waiting-maids of her own

H

to

to fet her foot under another body's table! but, as they say, patience is a plaister for all sores, we must see and do the best we can; for you can't make a silken purse of a sow's ear."

"Mr. Manly, imagining this discourse could afford little satisfaction to Miss Murrells, thought proper to interrupt it, by addressing a speech to that lady: "I am much obliged to you, ma'am, said he, for favouring me with this recital, and highly applaud the resolution you have taken, which shews a laudable fortitude in disdaining Lord Courtall; and from virtuous motives, preferring a life of servitude, with a mind uninflaved by vice, to a superficial mask of independency over a conscience shackled by sin. Persevere, ma'am, in the path you have chose, and rest assured you will safely be guided through
the

the labyrinths of this world by that Being who alone can extricate you out of all difficulties, and who will as certainly, and as amply reward suffering virtue, as he will exquisitely punish triumphant vice.— I should think myself very happy if I could be any way instrumental in retrieving your fortune, and will endeavour to find out Lady Farewell: in the mean time, you may depend upon my protection, if you had not rather throw yourself into Mr. Fuller's; but as he is a relation perhaps, if I apply to him, you would sooner honour him with your confidence than a stranger."

"Sir, answered she, you are very obliging: I believe if Mr. Fuller had been living, I should not have been in the way of your kind offer: but he died soon after my father, so disgusted with my parents imprudence, that he made no mention of them or me in his will; in

which he bequeathed his whole fortune to Mr. Truelove, who, I suppose, has had it transmitted to him, for he has never been in England since."

This conversation lasted till they reached the inn, where they alighted to dine; and as nothing remarkable past at table, we will bid them adieu.

C H A P.

C H A P. XIII.

An Alarm given.

AFTER dinner the justice was missing from the company, till the coachman called him to proceed on his journey.

Mr. Manly expressing surprize at his absence, he said, “ I can tell you, I have been very handsomely treated since I left you?” “ How, pray?” said Manly.

“ Why you must know, as we were eating, methought I saw a fine horse led by the window, so I goes into the stable to see after it; and there I found as fine a brace of geldings as ever the sun shone on. There was a livery servant tutoring the ostler about them, and I asked him who they belonged to?” “ My master,”

H 3 said

said he; "And who may be your master, friend," said I, "He will tell you himself, may be, said he, for he is drinking a bowl of punch alone in that room," pointing to a little hovel across the yard: "Well, said I, do you go to him, and tell him, I send my service, and should be glad to change a word with him if he pleases; for I must say, I thought him a clever gentleman, by his fancy in horses. So the fellow went, and out he came, and hearing that I liked his horses, he was so civil to invite me to take a glass with him. A few words went to that bargain, and I accepted his courteous offer; then we fell into discourse, and he asked me, whether I travelled on horseback, and where I was going to? I answered to London in the stage coach; he said he hoped I had good company, for it was a plaguy thing to be cooped up with bad. I replied, as to that matter, I was very lucky; and thinking he might know some of you,

I told

I told him who you all were, and how kindly you proferred to take care of this gentlewoman. He said you were all strangers to him; but if he had known, such gentry had been in the house, he should have been glad to have dined with us: Upon this, I thought I could do no less than invite him to sup with us at Bugden." Sir, said he, "I am much obligated to you; but my business calls me another way cross the country. I then made bold to ask his name, and where he lived? He replied, his name was Fane, and he lived in Bedfordshire."

"Pray sir, cried Miss Murrells, What sort of a person is this gentleman?"

"Why, he is a skinny young man, about the middle size as to height, of a fallow complexion, and somewhat pock-fretted, and wears his own hair cropt to his ears."

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“ At this account, Miss Murrells changed countenance; and turning to Mr. Manly, “ Oh sir! said she, this description exactly tallies with Lord Courtall; I fear he has not left persecuting me, and I shall again be exposed to his attempts.”

“ Child! said the justice, you need not put yourself in such a pucker; take my word for it, he is no lord, he did not look a bit like one, and his dress was not fit for quality: I have seen lords afore now, he was more like a jockey by half, for he had a green coat on, and a linen waistcoat, and no ruffles. Besides did I not tell you, his name was Fane?”

All this did not tend to lessen her suspicions, as she knew Lord Courtall was often habited in that manner, and thought he had reasons for concealing his true name. Mr. Manly begged she
would

would not be so alarmed; for if the stranger should prove to be his lordship so slenderly attended; he could not pretend to remove her by force out of the company; protesting he would defend her to the utmost.

“ Aye sir, added nurse, we shall be too many for him, I warrant him, an he were twenty lords: I am sure, if he offers to come near me, I’ll set my marks in his face, and tear his soul out: no, no, he will find none of his mates here, not he.”

The justice was not to be persuaded, that this clever fellow as he called him, was of the quality they suspected, and debated most part of the afternoon on the subject. Upon their arrival at Bugden, Miss Murrells enquired if any such person, as Mr. Moody described, had been there? and being answered in the negative,

she was a little easier; but declared the dread of some rash exploit of his lordship's, would not permit her to go to rest; and concluded upon sitting up till the coach set out. Miss Moody complaisantly offered to accompany her, and Mr. Manly assured her, he would order one of his servants to stay in his room, and the other to remain in the kitchen, in order to apprize him, if any alarm should be given. She was very thankful for this prudent caution; and after supper retired with Miss Moody to her chamber, where they seated themselves, and entered into conversation, whilst nurse flung into an elbow-chair, and tossing her apron over her face, composed herself for a nap.

Miss Murrells having remarked an absence of mind in her fair fellow-traveller, and a pensiveness in her countenance, conjectured the heart must have a share in these appearances, and with an obliging

obliging earnestness, begged to participate the concern, which so visibly preyed upon her spirits; and in which, though ignorant of the cause, she could not avoid sympathizing.

The good-natured girl, to whom the request was made, returned her thanks, for interesting herself so kindly in her affairs; and having been obliged to suppress as far as she was able, all marks of inquietude before her churlish father, was glad of an opportunity of disburthening some part of the heavy load, which his severe injunctions had fixed upon her mind. She therefore ingenuously related to Miss Murrells, the story of her heart, and reciprocal attachment between her and Mr. Lee; and expressed her apprehensions, of being forced to marry Mr. Hardy at his return, saying, she was so strictly watched, that she had no opportunity of

acquainting the former, that his rival was expected very soon.

Upon this, Miss Murrells said, "if she would write to him, she would put the letter into the penny-post, on her arrival in town"

She answered, that she would gladly do, if she could procure pen, ink, and paper, unknown to her father; but apologized for giving her trouble, adding, "If you will give me leave, ma'am, I would recommend you to him, and desire him to wait upon you, could you inform me where he might be likely to find you; 'tis probable, he may be able to tell you of a proper place; at least, he might seek out a suitable lodging."

Miss Murrells replied, she was much obliged to her, and if she would be so kind as to write, she could furnish her
with

with materials, by opening a box which she had brought up stairs; and least Mr. Lee should miss of her, she would stay two nights at the inn where the coach sat up. They then began to uncord and unlock the box; the noise of which, awakened nurse, who starting up in a fright, screamed out "There he is!"

The ladies alarmed at this exclamation, cried out, "What's the matter?"

"Matter enough! Did you not hear my Lord, what's his name, beat the door off the hinges? Why don't you down on your knees, and pray him to spare our lives?"

Finding by this speech the cause of her apprehensions, they produced the box, and made her comprehend the meaning of her surprize. She was no sooner pacified and composing herself again, when
a bounce

a bounce at the chamber-door alarmed them all; and nurse, though she heard Mr. Manly's voice on the out-side, enquiring after the cause of her shrieks, would not suffer the ladies to open it, till he had assured her that my lord was not in the house; having satisfied her upon that head, the ladies acquainted him with their employment, and he retired.

Miss Moody then sat down to writing, and notwithstanding she had so much to say about her own affairs, did not forget her promise to Miss Murrells; but begged Mr. Lee to attend her as soon as he received this letter, and do all in his power towards placing her in a suitable service or lodging.

When she had finished her epistle, she applied to Miss Murrells for wax or a wafer, but unluckily she was without either; upon which, she desired her to put
it

it into her pocket as it was, and seal it at the next stage, for fear she should not find an opportunity to do it. This request was complied with by Miss Murrells, who returned her many thanks, for the kind mention she had made of her: by the time this affair was adjusted, they received a summons from the coachman.

After the passengers had saluted each other, and Miss Murrells had declared she was eased of the apprehensions that disturbed her; Mr. Manly told the ladies Mr. Moody and he would excuse them, if they would try by sleep to repair the disturbance, which their fears had occasioned the preceeding night. Accordingly the company were very soon in the situation of Mr. Hogarth's congregation.

C H A P. XIV.

A grave Lady makes her Appearance.

THE passengers were so drowsy in the morning stage, that I shall omit the dull conversation that passed, least it should infect the reader; and think it sufficient to say, they were finely refreshed when they got to the place where they dined.

Upon their quitting the coach, the ladies, attended by nurse and the landlady, went into an upper room to settle their dress; and in five minutes a bell called the hostess down, who soon returned with the compliments of a lady, who was just arrived in a chariot and four; and who, being quite alone, should be glad of the favour of their company whilst dinner was preparing. With this intelligence nurse was dispatched to the gentlemen, and the young

young ladies were conducted into another room, where they found an elderly well-looking woman, very genteely dressed, who saluted them at their entrance with, "Ladies, I am extremely obliged to you for this favour; I sent to beg your permission to dine with you, as I am to accompany you in the coach to town, and to learn what other passengers there are."

"Such, answered Miss Murrells, as I think you can have no dislike to, ma'am; the father of this lady; (turning to Miss Moody) one Mr. Manly, from Scarborough; and a poor, honest, inoffensive, old woman."

"Mr. Manly! said the stranger, Is he with you?"

"Yes, ma'am; returned she, and I presume, by your question, not unknown to you."

"I can-

“ I cannot say, replied the elderly lady, I am personally acquainted with him, but have heard a great deal of his character from those that are.”

“ Then I dare believe, said Miss Murrells, you are impatient to see him; for if one may judge from his behaviour, he must bear an exceeding good one.”

“ Have you known him long, ma’am?”

“ No, ma’am; I never saw him till I was so fortunate to meet with him three days ago in my journey.”

At this the stranger paused, and, putting on a very grave look, began again: “ No doubt, ma’am, you are so happy to be defended by parents and a fortune, from the snares hypocrisy lays to entrap unguarded youth and beauty. But you appear to be too young to be acquainted with the artifices

fices of mankind; and how cautious a lady should be of entertaining too favourable an opinion of a stranger of the other sex."

This speech very near brought tears into the eyes of the person to whom it was addressed; but Miss Moody diverted her thoughts from it, by saying, " You have a letter in your pocket, which I believe you forget wants a seal; perhaps this lady can help you to a piece of wax."

Miss Murrells thanked her for reminding her of it; and having applied to the stranger, obtained what she desired: when the latter, glancing her eye over the superscription, said, " I find this is addressed to a neighbour of mine, in Hatton Garden; and if it will be of any service to have it expeditiously forwarded, I shall pass his house to-night, and will order my servant to leave it: Mr. Lee is an intimate

mate acquaintance of mine, and a gentleman that I have a great regard for."

At this offer Miss Murrells cast her eyes upon Miss Moody, as if to demand her approbation of it; and that lady being very desirous he should have it as soon as possible, "Since the lady, said she, will be so kind to convey it to-night, I think it will be lucky and convenient for you." Upon which Miss Murrells delivered it to the stranger."

Miss Moody would willingly have made some enquiry after her lover; but feared the lady might mention him before the justice, and raise suspicions in him, which it was for hereafter to avoid; she therefore remained silent upon that head. No sooner was the letter dispatched, than what the stranger had hinted concerning Mr. Manly's character recurred to the mind of Miss Murrells, and made her apprehensive

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five there was something amiss in it, which might cause her to repent of the confidence she had reposed in him. However, she reflected that the best of men are not exempted from that tax, which a celebrated writer observes, a man pays to the public for being eminent. Yet, on the other hand, as she could perceive no reason for the stranger's censuring a person that she had never seen; she begged Mrs. Durant (for that the stranger informed her was her name) to inform her what character Mr. Manly really bore.

“ You must excuse me, ma'am, returned she, I would not, upon any account, depreciate any one, by reporting what I have only from hear-say: the world is censorious, and generally enlarges upon people's foibles: we have all our failings; I have indeed heard, he was a man of a very plausible appearance; and I hope he is what he would be thought to be: but
his

his unusual acts of generosity to the young and fair, have made some folks suspect, they do not proceed from such disinterested motives as he pretends. However, I cannot affirm any thing from my own knowledge, and the world may be mistaken. Yet, I must own, from the accounts which I have heard, if I had a young lady under my care, I would sooner trust a professed debauchee, than with such a sly, insinuating——but, I ask his pardon, he may not deserve to be called an hypocrite.”

The young ladies looked upon each other with tokens of surprise, as not knowing what to think of Mr. Manly; and before they could resume the conversation, being called to dinner, it dropped.

Mrs. Durant was received with politeness by Mr. Manly, and a rough civility from the justice. She behaved with great
reserve.

reserve at table, and scarcely opened her lips, but to reply to the justice's questions, concerning her condition, whether she was maid, wife, or widow? Which, though put in this blunt manner was answered civilly by her; who informed him, that her husband had served some years in the army, and lost his life at Fontenoy; that she had remained a widow from that time, and usually resided at her house in Hatton-garden.

Upon his asking her from whence she came? she replied, " From visiting a friend in Huntingdonshire, whose chariot had brought her so far on her way. She did not seem the least to resent the old gentleman's impertinence; on the contrary, appeared to pay more deference to his conversation, than Mr. Manly's. To say the truth, she had conceived a very great dislike to that gentleman, from accounts she had heard of him, and entertained sus-
picious

picious very injurious to his reputation, in regard to ladies; and this induced her to remark his behaviour to his fair fellow travellers——The hints she had given Miss Murrells, made that lady behave with great reserve; and inspired her with apprehensions, not to be wondered at, considering her situation, and which made her resolve, in as civil a manner as possible, to reject any favours he might offer her, till she could have an opportunity of enquiring more particularly into his character.

C H A P. XV.

Mr. Manly prepares to relate an History.

MR S. Durant's admission into the company did not much enliven their conversation, as she was not inclined to join in it, till the justice told her he supposed by her silence, she did not think it right for a widow to be too forward."

She smiled, and answered, " I think, indeed sir, levity does not in the least suit people in my condition; but I am no enemy to innocent mirth."

" Mr. Manly applauded her sentiments, and added, I think chearfulness, tempered by discretion, the cement of society; and though it is almost impossible,

ble, for persons oppressed with grief, to join in the converse of the gay: it is certainly a duty incumbent on every body, to endeavour to appear easy in company; for sure no one has a right to invade another's peace of mind, any more than any other property; and those gloomy mortals who attempt it, by an undesired communication of their grievancies, ought to be banished society."

" This is fine talk, said the justice, but if a body is vext to the heart, what flesh and blood! can help speaking on't? and I should be glad to know, which way folks are to manage to be relieved, if they are in distress, without they tell on't."

" Fortitude returned Manly, is a blessing attending a perfect reliance upon the protection of that omnipotent Being, who is acquainted with all our wants; and I should think it a more rational procedure
putting

putting duty out of the question, to solicit that of heaven in our afflictions, than to make our complaints to weak mortals, who are as impotent as ourselves. In my tour through England a few years ago, I heard of two ladies, whose behaviour, under trying afflictions, convinced me, they had made such an application, and received the consequent assistance."

" Pray, what happened to the gentlewomen? said the justice, I should be glad to know, and their names? for I never heard of but one patient woman, and that was one Grizzel, that was painted in my grand-father's hall."

The ladies seconding this request, Mr. Manly complied with it in the following terms.

" It was my chance, in the tour I mentioned, to be seized with a fit of the rheumatism,

matism, at a country village where I stopt to refresh myself: the vicar of the parish hearing of my indisposition, which was likely to confine me some time, came to visit me, and offered me a lodging in his house, which was less noisy; and where I could be better accommodated than at the paltry inn where I lay; I accepted his obliging invitation, and was conveyed to the vicarage. During my stay there, I experienced the utmost tenderness from the humane clergyman and his wife, who were both far advanced in years, and had lived the life of Baucis and Philemon, from the time they married.

“ Though their income was little more than one hundred pounds a year, they managed with such œconomy, as always to reserve something, which they contributed towards the relief of their indigent neighbours. This benevolent disposition had acquired them the affection and respect

spect due to it. The conversation and kindness of this worthy couple greatly alleviated the violence of my distemper, and made me esteem the accident that brought me into their house, rather a blessing than misfortune: after keeping my chamber a fortnight, I ventured down into the parlour, and was reposing myself upon a cane couch, when a lady abruptly entered the room; and seeing a stranger, started back, till my generous hostess begged her to seat herself: she replied, "I cannot stay a minute, madam, and only came to desire you would please to return with me to poor Mrs. Goldson, who has received a piece of bad news that strongly affects her." Upon this, they both left me; they had not been long gone, before the good vicar returned from visiting a sick alms woman, that he attended twice in a day with as great assiduity as if she had been his patroness; and having been informed by the maid, that Miss Auger had

been to fetch her mistress to Mrs. Goldson, who was in great concern at something that had happened; he lifted up his hands and said sure, that poor lady was born to be afflicted.

“ This exclamation induced me to enquire after her; and from him I learnt the particulars of her story, and that of Miss Auger, which I will endeavour to relate to you in his own words.

CHAP.

C H A P. XVI.

Beginning of an History.

“ **M**R S. Goldson, to make use of the clergyman’s words, was the only child of a country gentleman, whose ostentation led him into expences, that greatly exceeded the bounds of his income, and was deservedly the darling of her parents. As she was not greatly indebted to nature for personal beauties, she early laid aside all thoughts of adorning her outside; and without regretting the absence of them in herself, or overlooking them in others, she bent her study chiefly towards improving those more permanent ones, with which her mind was amply furnished.

“ In this laudable endeavour, she succeeded so well, that at the age of eighteen she excelled most of her sex in acquisitions,

hat are acknowledged to give the greatest
 lustre to ours.

“ About this time she lost a most indulgent mother, whom she regretted with a truly filial piety: her father had that sort of disposition, which in the phrase of the world, is stiled good-natured; that is, void of those sensations which discompose the minds of some people, upon the misfortunes or death of friends. It is true, he never designedly did any person an injury; but then he never gave himself the least trouble, in endeavouring to redress those which they received from others: he neither joyed at the prosperity of a friend, or sympathized with him in adversity, and seemed perfectly unconcerned at all events that did not immediately affect his own person. Such a temper, doubtless occurred to the late dean of St. Patrik, when he declared that,

“ Indifference

“ Indifference, clad in wisdom’s guise,
All fortitude of mind supplies.”

This gentleman being thus fortified against the assaults of grief, found little difficulty in repelling its attacks; and in a few days after the interment of his wife, banished all appearances of it from his countenance and behaviour. Not, but he had as much affection for her, as souls like his are susceptible of; and retained the same for his daughter, to whom he consigned the management of his family, never contradicting her, or objecting to any of her actions or acquaintance.”

“ Here the justice interrupted Mr. Manly. “ I suppose then Mrs. Whatdy’e-call her, did always as he would have her, otherwise the man must be a fool to humour the girl in her fancies.”

“ If you will have patience, returned Mr. Manly, you shall be informed of all I heard relating to her conduct. She remained mistress of her father’s house two years, and had by her œconomy and prudence in that capacity, gained the esteem of every person of sense and goodness in the neighbourhood; when her father, without any regard to her interest, thought proper to marry an indigent young woman, that had been accustomed to lead a life far above her station, whose understanding was as much below her daughter’s as her vanity was superior.

“ Being many years younger than her husband, and endowed with an uncommon share of spirit, she was the source of continual disquiet to him, and poor Miss Fanny his daughter; the envy she had conceived of that young lady’s extraordinary talents, appeared in her taking
every

every opportunity to decry them as insignificant, if not pernicious; and if she spoke or wrote any thing above her comprehensions, she would declare with a sneer, she thanked heaven, her head was never filled with such nonsense; and for her part, she had a taste above such low wit.

“ Here, continued Mr. Manly, I cannot avoid remarking, that this sort of behaviour is very usual in people, whose intellects are weaker and assurance stronger than those they converse with. They vainly imagine by the mere dint of impudence, (which is seen in their attempts to ridicule, what they can never hope to attain) to deter others from uttering any thing exceeding the limits of their own shallow conceptions. Though one would imagine, the deserved contempt which attends such declaimers should prevent

them from exposing their own ignorance, and giving the persons aimed at, so great an advantage over them, in the opinion of mankind in general; who, jealous, least their discernment should be questioned, are ready to give their verdict in favour of superior accomplishments. And it is obvious to every rational creature, though he be not a perfect logician, that wherever the effects of envy appears, it must spring from some cause; an assertion illustrated by one of the brightest geniuses this island ever contained,

“ Envy, does merit as its shade pursue,

“ And like the shadow, proves the substance true.

“ But, to return from this digression, Miss Fanny led so uncomfortable a life, from the capricious and insolent behaviour of her mother, that she persuaded

suaded her father to let her go and board with an old lady, who had been an intimate acquaintance of his late wife's, and lived in the country at some miles distance; he consented, and she went to reside there."

C H A P.

C H A P. XVII.

Mr. Manly continues his Narrative.

“ BESIDES the regard Miss Fanny had to a friend of her late mother’s, she had another inducement to take up her abode with her; and that was the company of a young lady of her own age, who had been long known to her; whose name was Auger, she was niece to the old lady, and had lived some years in her family.

“ Miss Auger had nothing attracting either in her face or shape; on the contrary, she was looked upon as defective in both; yet a sweetness of disposition, and a sprightly imagination, joined with the greatest propriety of behaviour, compensated for the absence of exterior charms; and rendered her conversation coveted by all, but more particularly by Miss Fanny, who was extremely happy in her friendship.

“ She

“ She had not been long settled here, before her step mother, envious of the satisfaction she enjoyed, tried various methods to separate them; but, as they had both too much perspicuity, not to discern her motive for endeavouring to interrupt their harmony, they were ineffectual. Finding her schemes of this sort baffled, she had recourse to another expedient. Miss Fany had an old relation, a widow lady, Dover by name, who had a pretty jointure, and some small fortune besides at her disposal, upon which she lived in a country village. She was one of those persons who seemed to think the least appearance of cheerfulness criminal in her juniors; and being by nature very assuming, had experienced the happiness of meeting with a passive disposition in a husband, that led her to imagine, every one was under an obligation of submitting to her opinion. But the poor gentleman was no sooner at rest, but she was undeceived,

ceived, and given to understand, whenever she pretended to execute it upon others, that her authority was not so extensive as she had supposed."

"I am glad said the justice, to hear that, women are always headstrong; and 'tis but right such folks should meet with them that will give them their own."

Mr. Manly smiled, and proceeded. "Perceiving her power not so despotic as she expected, she grew more peevish, and loudly exclaimed against the present age, which she affirmed, was too obstinate to be guided by her wise dictates. So little, sir continued he, turning to the justice, was this lady acquainted with her own foibles, though those of her neighbours found ample room in her memory. With all this, she pretended to be a strict devotee; and whenever she indulged her inclinations in appearing at a ball or public

lic

lic diversion, she used to inform the company that she despised the entertainment, and only came out of compassion for the souls of the gay giddy youth of both sexes; for whom she could put up more fervent ejaculations, whilst she was an eye-witness of the temptations and dangers they were exposed to, than if she had not such scenes before her eyes.

“ To this lady Miss Fanny’s mother made a visit, in which each having declaimed against the age in general, descended to particulars; when the visitant told Mrs. Dover she was under great apprehensions for the safety of Fanny, who was a young woman of too much vivacity to be left to her own guidance in this dangerous world; and though it would not be proper for her, who was a step-mother to restrain her, she wished, for her soul’s sake, she was removed from that pert flirt, Miss Auger, who, she feared, would instill libertine princi-

principles into her, having had a London education; and she was informed, she had more than once, the assurance to sit down to a harpsichord at a public concert, in the face of all the men present; and made no scruple, if a gentleman wrote to her, of answering his letters, besides taking many other liberties equally alarming; and thought upon the whole, she was a very dangerous intimate; and Mrs. Dover could not do a more meritorious act, or one more consistent with the laudable zeal she expressed for unthinking souls, than to endeavour to save her from impending ruin.

“ The flattery in the conclusion of this speech, found easy access to the heart of the old lady, who professed great compassion for her heedless cousin; and proposed, with her father’s leave, to give her an invitation to her house, in order to shew her her errors, and wean her from the vanities and folly to which Miss Auger was addicted.

The

The mother, having gained her point, bestowed high encomiums upon the understanding and generosity of Mrs. Dover; and took her leave, with a promise of acquainting her husband with her kind offer; saying she was certain he would approve of her accepting it."

"And was the man such a fool as to mind her? (said Moody) Not but to my thinking, the young woman had too much liberty; but that, you know, her father was the best judge of."

Mr. Manly went on—"Miss Fanny's father was told by his wife at her return, that good Mrs. Dover had a great affection for his daughter, but was very uneasy at her situation: "And though, my dear, says she, I never interfere in her affairs, I think the good old lady's reasons against her continuing with Miss Auger are unanswerable; and since she has generously offered

offered to take care of her, it would be a pity she should not go. It may be a very advantageous removal for her, if Fanny can but suit herself to her temper, and humour her little whimsies." With arguments like these, she prevailed upon him to insist upon the young lady's quitting Miss Auger, at least for a time; and though the proposition was extremely disagreeable to Miss Fanny, yet, in compliance with her father's request, she consented to pass a summer with her cousin, whom she had not seen from her childhood. The young ladies parted with mutual regret, and made a reciprocal promise of keeping up a literary correspondence.

C H A P. XVIII.

An Account of Miss Fanny's Friend.

“MY friend, the vicar, said Mr. Manly, having proceeded thus far in Miss Fanny's story, thought proper, as Miss Auger's had a connection with her's, to give me the following detail concerning that young lady—

“Miss Auger had, like her friend, buried her mother some years, and received her education at a boarding-school in London, where her father resided till he had acquired a competency by trade, and then retired to his estate, which was pretty considerable, in the country: his daughter, at the desire of her aunt, who had bad health, and was infinitely fond of her, resided with her from that time. Besides her, he had one son, who was quite the reverse of his sister,

sister, being fordidly covetous, and remarkable ill-natured; though the utmost care had been taken in his education, his disposition would not permit him to make any improvement from it. His soul was too narrow to entertain capacious or various ideas; and indeed none appeared to inhabit there, but pleasure arising from gain, and dread of poverty; and the whole tenor of his conduct, proved it was entirely influenced by these alternatives. So far was he from discerning the amiable qualities of his sister, or regarding her with affection, that he was jealous of her, as one who had a right to share in his father's wealth, which he would gladly have appropriated wholly to his own use.

“ In the neighbourhood of Mr. Auger lived one Mr. Harwood, who had likewise an only son, a gentleman of unexceptionable character and good person. The friendship which had many years subsisted between these

these neighbours, made them desirous of more closely cementing it, by an alliance between their children; and Mr. Harwood proposed his son to Mr. Auger, as a suitable match for his daughter; the old gentleman approved the proposal, and the young one was informed of their desire. Upon which he said he could not immediately acquiesce in an affair of such importance, having very little acquaintance with the lady. Indeed, he knew her only by sight, and her person had made no favourable impression on his mind; but this he did not chuse to acknowledge, being sensible his father would not think that a material objection against the union of their estates; which, from their vicinity, was judged by the old gentlemen to be very convenient. He therefore told his father he would visit the lady, and if he found her agreeable to him, he had no objection against entering into the marriage state. Mr. Auger upon this engaged to give his daughter

daughter 3000l. upon the day of marriage, and the like sum at his decease. This being agreed upon, Mr. Harwood, the younger, sat out to wait upon the lady, who had notice from her father of his design. This intelligence came whilst Miss Fanny was with her, to whom she communicated the affair; and the young gentleman's character being known to them both, they found nothing to dislike in the proposition. But Miss Auger, conscious of the want of those attractions which usually give birth to the passion of love, apprehended the treaty would break off at their first interview. However, in obedience to the commands of her father, she determined to relieve him in a manner suitable to his merit."

"A clever woman, I'll warrant! said the justice, she could be dutiful without being forced to it!" casting a stern look at Miss Moody, whose blushes confessed she but too well understood the reproach.

Mr. Manly

Mr. Manly perceiving this, took occasion to say, “ I am informed Miss Auger’s heart was free from any attachment at this time, neither had any one attempted to engage it; and I think it no derogation from her merit, to suppose that might induce her the more readily to hearken to such a proposition, especially from a parent, who, I cannot but hope, would not have made it, had not he been assured she was unprejudiced in favour of another.”

At this the justice looked a little grave, and Mr. Manly resumed his narrative—

“ Mr. Harwood staid two days with Miss Auger’s aunt, to whom he brought a letter from his father, that informed her he had sent his son to transact an affair of business with a person in her neighbourhood, and begged her to give him house-room; and she being apprized of his intentions by her brother, gave him a hand-

some reception, as he made no mention of the real occasion of his visit: Miss Auger behaved to him with an easy unreserved modesty, imputing his silence upon that head to the disappointment he had met with in contemplating her person: and though she observed something so agreeable in his deportment and conversation upon other topics, as to excite a desire of appearing equally so to him; the diffidence she had of herself representing to her the improbability of succeeding, quelled all such rising hopes; and she would not even indulge reflections on his good sense and other amiable qualities, least they should inspire her with a passion, the latent seeds of which discovered themselves in her bosom; though the merit of no person she had hitherto conversed with, had been able to call them forth.

“ Upon Mr. Harwood’s return to his father, he confessed Miss Auger was a very
sensible

sensible deserving woman, but he did not think she could ever suit him; for he believed it impossible to overcome the dislike he had to her person; and though he owned a beautiful outside only was too weak a foundation, on which to build such a durable friendship as union for life required; he thought it requisite that the person with whom he should form such an one, should not be disgustful.

“ The old gentlemen urged every prudential argument to persuade him to conquer his aversion, but in vain; he declared he would not trouble the lady with another visit upon that account, and begged he would cease to importune him upon that subject.”

“ A foolish puppy! said the justice, What signifies a woman’s face, if she has but a portion?”

Manly, without making any reply to this interrogation, continued his recital—

“ Mr. Auger, said he, was no less disappointed than his friend, at the young gentleman’s obstinacy; for that term they gave to his refusal.”

“ And right enough, to be sure, said the justice; I cannot but blame the old folks, for giving him his head so odd! if the young jack-a-napes had been a son of mine, he should have married who I thought proper, or he should have tried how he could have maintained himself, for old Gilbert! that’s my opinion.”

“ But happily for Mr. Harwood, replied Manly, his father was not at that time of that opinion; at least he did not chuse, where intreaties would not prevail, to make use of threats, which, I am certain, never made the desired effect on an ingenuous mind.”

The coachman stopping to bait his horses, Mr. Manly could not continue his narration till the company were replaced in the coach.

When the passengers were defeated, they begged Mr. Manly would proceed to give them some further information concerning the ladies whose history he was relating; upon which he went on—

“ Matters were in the situation I have described, when Miss Fanny left her friend; and after a tedious journey of forty miles, reached Mrs. Dover’s, accompanied by her father. The old lady put on as pleasing a countenance as her features would admit of; but could not, by all her efforts, conceal the natural moroseness of her temper from appearing under this mask of good nature; and to a woman of her young cousin’s discernment, her aspect afforded little

prospect of leading an agreeable life, with so starched a piece of formality.

“ The conversation on the evening of her arrival, did not tend to inspire her with more pleasing ideas, as it consisted chiefly in ridiculing the foibles of the neighbourhood; a theme, very disagreeable to the young lady, who had a capacity for improving her minutes to much greater advantage, than discanting on the frailties incident to her own species; and did not imagine herself so perfect, or so intimately acquainted with the hearts of those she conversed with as to be a competent judge of the real motives from whence their actions took their rise; and had there been no prohibition, as there is a very strict one upon all Christians against venting such censure: she was one of those who could find no satisfaction in contemplating or exposing the depravity of human nature. She therefore, from the moment she discovered the old lady's

dy's tendency, formed a resolution to remain silent, whenever such topics were started, if she could not absolutely confute the scandal; but, whenever she heard any person unjustly aspersed of her own knowledge, she thought it her duty to vindicate them with equal warmth.

“ She had not been many days with Mrs. Dover, before she found great reason to regret the absence of her beloved friend, and passed her hours in a manner easy to be conceived; and I doubt, frequently experienced by persons of taste and good sense, in hearkening to discourses foreign to both. A month elapsed, when the old lady dropped her darling subject for one she imagined would be more agreeable to her cousin's ear; and told her, her friend Mr. Salter (whom she had affirmed was the only honest man in the place) had an inclination to make a match between his son and her; “ He is gone to London, continued

she, for ordination, and at his return is to make you a visit; and, in my opinion, you cannot have a more suitable husband; for he is a fine scholar, and can talk to you in your own way. Indeed, I must own, his father is not very polite, having been bred a farmer; but in all my dealings with him, I have found him an honest man, as the world goes."

The young lady, who knew this Mr. Salter to be of a mean sordid disposition, was far from liking the proposal; and the sight of his son, who was one of the most pedantic coxcombs she had ever met with, did not remove the prejudice she had conceived against his alliance. Three hours conversation convinced her he was not the man she would chuse to pass her days with; and she declined his addresses in a genteel manner as soon as offered, to the great vexation of her sagacious cousin; who, being fully persuaded her opinion was infallible

allible upon all occasions, had recourse to her old consolation, that every person who differed from her, and a very few of the same sentiment, were in an error: she blessed herself for her extraordinary discernment, and told Miss Fanny, she should pray to Heaven to change her stubborn temper.

“ Six months she passed in this uncomfortable situation, till tired out with the capricious disposition of the old lady, who perpetually teased her with a repetition, not only of her own but of her friend’s faults; and was every day saying, it grieved her to the soul to find she was so like her mother, that was dead and gone, who would never be advised by her; and had not half the good sense and prudence of her father’s present wife. She the more frequently harped upon this string, as she knew nothing could be so grating to Miss Fanny’s ears, who revered the memory of

her late mother; and saw, with inexpressible concern, the extravagant conduct of her present, must involve the family in ruin; as her father's estate was so impaired, that he was obliged to sell a large part, and mortgage the remainder.

“ These reflections, therefore, of Mrs. Dover's, upon the most indulgent parent that ever existed, and one who had brought a considerable share of fortune which her successor was dissipating, were so irksome to the young lady, that she wrote to a grave old gentleman, a friend of her father's, and acquainted him with some of the reasons that rendered her situation extremely disagreeable; desiring him to persuade her father to remove her.

“ The person to whom this epistle was addressed, had long thought her father's affection for his wife had deprived his daughter of the share due to her; and
upon

upon her appeal, took the liberty to hint as much to him; and represented that the least recompence he could make the young lady, for his wife's unkind treatment of her, was to leave her at liberty in the choice of her abode; especially as he must be convinced from her good sense, and the propriety of all her actions, she would not make an improper one.

“ This remonstrance had the desired effect; and she onœ more repaired, with a joyful heart, to her friend Miss Auger, who had heard no mention of Mr. Harwood in her absence. She had been returned but a few months, when an account arrived of the death of Mr. Auger, the elder, who was taken off by an apoplectic fit: this intelligence gave his daughter extreme concern, and was a prelude to further sorrows; for though the old gentleman had made a will a few days before he expired, there was such a fault in it,

that his son was heir to his whole estate; for he would by no means be persuaded to give up to his sister 6000*l.* out of it, which her father had bequeathed to her in this will, as she could not legally demand it; and the poor young lady could claim no more than the moiety of the personal estate, which amounted to no more than eight hundred pounds. She bore this disappointment with an exemplary fortitude, and gave thanks to heaven for affording her the relief which she experienced from the conversation of Fanny, who had heartily sympathized with her, and used all her friendly efforts to condole her.

“ About three months after her father’s decease, young Mr. Harwood was obliged, upon business, to pass through the village in which she resided, and thought it but civil to make her a visit of condolance. Her resignation and proper behaviour under this severe trial, made such an impression

sion upon him, that he regarded her in a much more amiable light, than when he attended her formerly; and he offered her his assistance in settling her affairs, which occasioned frequent interviews between them; and he had such opportunities of remarking the valuable qualities of her mind, that, strange as it may appear, he actually fell in love with her. It was some time before she could credit his protestations of that nature; but when he offered to acquaint his father with his sentiments, she began to hearken to his professions, and to accept them. When he mentioned the affair to his father, he told him he was ashamed of his former want of discernment; but he was now, from a full conviction of the merit of the lady, become a convert to his opinion, in regard to Miss Auger; and was not only ready to make her his wife, but very certain it would not be in the power of any other woman to render him happy.

“ The

“ The old gentleman, amazed at this declaration, thought his son in a delirium; and he was obliged to use as many protestations of the sincerity of it, as he had done to his mistress, before he could convince him he was in earnest. No sooner was he assured of the disagreeable truth, than he flew into a violent passion; and said he perceived his refusal of her formerly was occasioned by his dislike to any proposal from him; and to punish his disobedience, he would never consent to the match now.

“ Upon this the son retorted all the arguments the father had heretofore, in preceding conversations, enforced in her favour; but, as she was no longer in a capacity of bringing such an addition to his estate as he expected, the most forcible one recoiled on the young gentleman.

In

“ In vain did he alledge that the qualifications of the lady had received no diminution with her fortune: the old gentleman continued to be of a contrary opinion; and by the vehemence of his speeches against her, it was evident he thought she had not one good one remaining.

“ His son asked, if her brother would consent to restore to her the sum mentioned in her father's will, whether he would then have any thing to say against her; to this question he replied, “ No;” an answer which gave the lover great concern; not only as he was well convinced Mr. Auger was incapable of acting in so generous a manner, and would never be brought to part from more than the law would give her; but also to discern such a mercenary disposition in the person he was bound to honour. However, as the old gentleman gave no better reason for his dislike to her than the deficiency in the article of fortune

tune, and he knew his inheritance was too considerable to need such an augmentation as his father required, he determined to follow the dictates of his heart, and openly professed himself her lover; being in hopes time might produce another revolution in the old gentleman's sentiments.

“ He now frequently visited Miss Auger, and constantly corresponded with her. The prospect of their union afforded great satisfaction to Miss Fanny, who had conceived so good an opinion of Mr. Harwood, that she permitted his mistress to communicate to him several ingenious productions of her pen; which he so well approved, as to desire the author would give him leave to shew them to a friend of his, who was a lover, and a favourite of the muses; and after some intreaties on his side, and excuses on her's, he obtained a few copies.

“ Before he left Miss Auger, at this time, he earnestly solicited a solemn promise

mise of marrying him, so soon as he could obtain such an annual stipend from his father as would enable him to support her in a rank suitable to her education and desert: she complied with his request, and they entered into a mutual engagement, in the presence of her aunt.

CHAP.

C H A P. XIX.

Description of another Lover.

“SOME weeks after this last interview between the lovers, Miss Fanny received a packet by the post, signed Amintor; containing a complimentary copy of verses upon her performances of that nature. The poetry was so good, that she impatiently longed to know whose it was; as by the expressions she found he was a stranger to her person, and there was no guessing at the hand, which neither of the ladies were acquainted with: they were forming various conjectures about the author, when Mr. Harwood made his appearance; upon which, Miss Auger produced the paper, and asked him if he could guess from whom it came: no sooner had he cast his eyes upon it, than he affirmed, he perfectly knew it
to

to be Mr. Goldson's hand, an intimate acquaintance of his.

“ The ladies, at this, expressing a desire of receiving some information concerning his character and family, and what could induce him to address Miss Fanny in this manner; he replied, Mr. Goldson was a young gentleman of bright parts and good character, the only child of a wealthy miser; who, though he was infinitely fond of him, had denied him the advantage of so liberal an education as he required, on account of the expence attending it; but by forming an acquaintance with men of literature, and taking uncommon pains, he had so far cultivated his natural genius, as, in a great measure, compensated for those early advantages which avarice had deprived him of; and was esteemed and carested by persons of the most conspicuous sense and rank. that he had long known him, and was he the
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very person for whom he had solicited a sight of Miss Fanny's compositions, of which she might perceive his sentiments expressed in the poetry he had sent her.

"However, added he, I shall rally him upon his privacy in the affair, since he might have committed the care of his first address to me."

"Miss Fanny begged he would take no notice of it; saying, by his signing a poetical name, it appeared that he had no intentions she should discover the real author. Mr. Harwood begged pardon for dissenting from her opinion in this case, and said, he rather thought he had taken this method to introduce himself to her acquaintance, and probably might hope to prejudice her in Amintor's favour, before he appeared in the person of Will Goldson; and should that in reality be the case, he hoped she would not be offended,

fended, if he accompanied him in his next visit to Miss Auger.

“ Miss Fanny remaining silent to this speech, her friend assured him any gentleman of his acquaintance should meet with a genteel reception from her aunt; and after some further conversation, no way pertinent to the story, the lovers separated.

“ One day in the following week, Mr. Harwood introduced Mr. Goldson to Miss Fanny, and she perceived by his conduct and conversation, that his friend had made no partial representation of his merit. The gentlemen passed some days in the village, and seldom separated themselves from the ladies, but when good-breeding obliged them to leave them to their repose. Mr. Goldson, whose heart was captivated by the character and good sense of Fanny, found
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so much to admire in her conversation at this interview, that he communicated the situation of his mind to his friend, begging him to mention it to her, and intercede in his behalf: accordingly, Mr. Harwood founded her inclinations by distant hints; and at last, speaking more plainly, and having a powerful second in Miss Auger, he brought her to acknowledge, a sensibility of the gentleman's merit; upon which, Mr. Goldson was emboldened to plead his own cause, and obtained permission to prosecute it, with the approbation of their parents; but she honestly told him, she thought the ruinous situation of her father's circumstances, would be a great obstacle to procuring the consent of his.

“ To this Mr. Goldson was no stranger, before he received the account from her, having made enquiry concerning her, from the time he had conceived an opinion

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nion of her desert; and he imagined, the slenderness of her fortune was amply atoned for, by acquisitions which wealth could not purchase; yet, reflections on the avaritious disposition of his father, suggested fears of an opposition to his desires. Having wrote to Miss Fanny's father, and obtained assurances from him, that he would not oppose their union; he applied to a gentleman of distinction, who honoured him with his friendship, and of whose judgment the old gentleman had always declared the greatest approbation, and imparted the affair to him, desiring him to acquaint his father with it. The gentleman complied with his request, and urged every reason to the elder Goldson, that he thought requisite to induce him to give his consent, but without effect: the miser lost all patience at the bare mention of it; and would not attend to any thing said in favour.

favour of the proposal; but positively declared, if his son married the most accomplished woman in the world of inferior fortune, he would disinherit him, and not one penny of his substance should descend to him. His son and friends tried every method to mollify him, but he remained inflexibly bent to oppose the match; and by his severity, rendered them very unhappy for two years; when the young gentleman, wearied with his fruitless solicitations, coming to the possession of an estate of 300l. a year, which was left by a relation, to him and his heirs male; but in default of such, to go into another branch of the family, and a small sum at his own disposal; thought this, with œconomy, might support them till his father's decease, or reconciliation; for he was not without hope, by a prudent conduct, to bring the old gentleman to regard his beloved Fanny, with a paternal

nal affection; the lady persuaded by his arguments, consented, and a union was accomplished. Miss Auger and her lover attended the bride to her new habitation, where peace and happiness seemed to preside over all their hours.

L CHAP.

CHAP. XX.

Mr. Manly's Narrative concluded.

“SOME months after Mr. Goldson's marriage, his father deigned to make him a visit, and appeared much better satisfied with his choice than he expected. Being informed that his daughter-in-law was likely to bring his son an heir, he declared if the child proved a boy, he would be no longer at variance with them. Mrs. Goldson behaved to him in so proper a manner, that before he quitted the house, he promised to yield up one hundred pounds a year to his son, as soon as the necessary writings could be drawn.

“Just at this period, Mr. Harwood lost his father, who left him an handsome estate, and at liberty to follow the bent of his inclinations; and he proposed, after paying

paying him the decent respect of mourning, to make Miss Auger a partaker of his fortune. This gentleman and lady now regarded each other as persons who were in a few months to be united for life. In this situation, these four friends were the envy of their neighbourhood, when Mr. Goldson was obliged to take a journey to London, in order to consult a particular lawyer, that his father chose to employ in the affairs relating to the conveyance of that part of his estate, which he was to give up to him. Mr. Harwood accompanied him in this journey, leaving Miss Auger with Mrs. Goldson during their absence. The dilatory proceedings of the conveyance, detained the gentlemen near a month in town; and they had not been returned two days, before they were both taken extremely ill. The physicians who were called in, pronounced their distemper to be the small-pox; a sentence very dreadful to the married lady, whomever

had the disease; her husband begged she would leave his room, but she resolutely refused to stir from him in this exigence, till her friends represented, that her continuance there, was not only endangering herself, but her infant and husband, whose apprehensions for her safety, would enhance the malignity of his disorder. This last consideration prevailed with her to quit the chamber, but not the house. Miss Auger having had it, attended the gentlemen, who were very soon pass'd the power of medicine to relieve.

“ I must throw a veil over the melancholy scene that ensued: when each lady saw herself deprived of what she esteemed her greatest earthly blessing, at a time when the wife was in the most unfit condition to sustain so grievous an affliction. She was as sincere a mourner as such a separation ever occasioned; but from a proper sense of her duty, to that all-wise Being
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from whence the stroke came; and in regard to the unborn innocent, whom she might injure, by giving way to corroding grief: she as far as was in her power, checked the sallies of immoderate sorrow; and having fortunately escaped the distemper, was in a few months delivered of a daughter. Miss Auger continued with her, and proved by her behaviour, she was endued with an equal share of resignation.

“ Mr. Goldson’s illness having put a stop to the proceedings relative to the settlement; and the estate he enjoyed during his life, going into another branch of the family, as his child proved a daughter, he was not able to leave his deserving wife any more than the scanty sum of 700*l*. The old gentleman’s temper still more soured, by the double disappointment, the loss of his son, and the birth of a grand-daughter occasioned, he was not

in the least inclined to deal generously by the widow: however, he promised, if the child lived, he would provide for it; he said, as she brought no fortune to her husband, she might think herself very well off, with the money he left her.

“ Miss Auger’s aunt, having ever had a regard for this disconsolate widow, invited her to her house, where she might live as retired as she pleased; and have a companion, whose friendship she had so long experienced: growing age and infirmities, made her desirous of her neice’s company, and she was not willing to separate these two friends. This offer was gratefully accepted by Mrs. Goldson, who with Miss Auger, once more returned to the old lady’s habitation. The fatherless babe was regarded by the fond mother, as a blessing sent by heaven to sooth her sorrows; and as it bore a strong resemblance of her beloved husband, she indulged

indulged a gloomy pleasure, in contemplating its features; and amused herself with the thoughts of employing all her care in rearing up, and educating this precious legacy: but, alas! without any previous sickness, the child was snatched away by death, before she had learnt the use of speech; and in her grave, seemed to be buried her grandfather's affection; for from that time, he never offered to make the least addition to the mother's income; and her own father was not in a capacity, if his wife would have permitted him, to encrease her scanty pittance.

“ The loss of this infant was a new source of affliction, and Miss Auger, who endeavoured to console her, had an encrease to hers very soon, by the death of her good aunt. The old lady bequeathed to her, the house in which she lived, and a fortune sufficient to keep it on, and to continue her friend with her. In this situ-

ation, were these ladies at the time when the good vicar gave me this detail; and he assured me, notwithstanding the cruel vicissitudes of fortune they had experienced, they were so far from repining at the dispensations of providence, that they were full of acknowledgments for the blessings of health, and a competency upon which they could still live together.

“ Having received this account from my kind host, I was no less impatient than himself for the return of his wife, to learn the occasion of Mrs. Goldson’s present affliction; and therefore as soon as she appeared, we both begged to be acquainted with it; upon which, with tears she informed us, that Mrs. Goldson had just received a melancholly account of her father’s death, occasioned by a fall from his horse. That he died insolvent, and his wife having obtained a marriage bond for a large sum, it was thought he had not left sufficient

sufficient to discharge that, much less to pay his numerous debts, or make any provision for his daughter.

“ This intelligence so sensibly affected my humane host, that he went immediately to console her: I told him, from the representation he had made of her case and merit, I would willingly cause the like to be made to old Mr. Goldson, and endeavour to persuade him, out of his abundance, to add something towards maintaining her, in a manner suitable to his son’s widow; he answered, Mrs. Goldson would certainly think herself obliged to me for so kind a proposition; but he believed, in the circumstances she was in she would not chuse to lie under such obligations to a gentleman, with whom she had no acquaintance.”

“ There, said Mrs. Durant, I think the lady must be in the right; for though,

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“sir, your offer was very kind, a woman cannot be too cautious of putting herself too much in the power of your sex; and without one could see into the heart, one cannot be able to judge, whether such an offer might not proceed from views, which would make a prudent woman tremble.”

“I am sorry, ma’am, replied Mr. Manly, human nature is so depraved, as to afford any colour for such an insinuation; but as, I own, there have been cases where it was warrantable, I cannot entirely condemn it; though, I hope, the constant tenor of my actions has given no one reason to suspect them influenced by such motives.”

To this she returned no answer but a bow, and joined with the rest of the company in thanks, for the pains he had taken to amuse them; she then told the justice and
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the two other ladies, if they made any stay in town, she hoped they would honour her with a visit.

The justice thanked her, but said, “ I don’t purpose to tarry at all at London; my chariot is to meet me at the inn where we shall stop, and I shall go to Hampstead to-night.” Then turning to Mr. Manly, “ I shall depend upon seeing you, ’squire, at the Sullens.”

“ Mr. Manly replied, “ I will certainly take some opportunity of waiting upon you, sir. In the mean time, I hope you will remember the promise you made me.”

“ Aye, aye! (said Moody) you need not say no more of that.”

Mrs. Durant asked Miss Murrells, where she intended to lodge; and was answered, she could not certainly tell.

By this time the passengers arrived safely in town, and bad each other farewell. Mr. Manly staid behind at the inn, till the justice and his daughter had entered their chariot, and Mrs. Durant had taken a hackney coach; observing Miss Murrells remained behind, repeated his offers of serving her; to which she replied, with thanks, she hoped she should have no occasion to be troublesome to him, as Miss Moody had been so kind to recommend her to a friend of her's, who might probably help her to a service.

Upon this Mr. Manly took his leave, giving her a direction to his house in town, if ever she should want to apply to him for assistance; with an assurance that no person would be more ready to afford it her.

As soon as he departed, Miss Murrells and nurse retired to their chamber, when the fatigue of the journey, and the uncertainty

tainty of succeeding in her scheme, greatly dejected the young lady; and all her hopes were placed in the letter Miss Moody had wrote to Mr. Lee; the event of which she determined to wait before she made application elsewhere.

CHAP.

C H A P. XXI.

Miss Murrells enters into a Service.

AFTER passing a very uneasy night, Miss Murrells and Mrs. Adams were sitting at breakfast, between ten and eleven, when a servant belonging to the inn entered the room, and demanded if either of their names were Murrells; being answered in the affirmative, she said, a gentleman below desired Miss Murrells might be informed, Mr. Lee, of Hatton Garden, begged to see her; upon which she and her nurse quitted the chamber; and, being shewn into another room, sent the maid down, with her compliments to Mr. Lee, and she should be glad to see him. The servant returned with a young fellow, of a spruce appearance, who accosted her in these terms—"If your name is Murrells, ma'am, I have an order in my hand to attend :

tend your pleasure;" delivering her the letter Miss Moody had wrote upon the road; and assuring her he was ready to execute her commands: having perused the letter, she returned it to him, saying, " I am greatly obliged, sir, both to the lady and you."

" I think, ma'am, said he, you are at present in a very improper situation, for a person unacquainted with the ways of the town; and since Miss Moody has done me the honour to appoint me for your protector, I must take the liberty to say, you ought to quit this public-house immediately; otherwise, I perceive, by the behaviour of the people upon my asking for you, you will be liable to affronts."

" Bless us! said nurse, why should any body affront madam? I am sure she will give offence to no living creature; and she'll pay for what she has, or I'll pawn and sell every

every thing in the earthful world, 'fore she should want!"

"That is not the case; (replied he) if you were to pay treble for what you had, it would not secure the lady's reputation from suspicion: the woman of the house spoke very broadly to me, when I enquired for her; for which I cursed the jade heartily, and said, the lady was a patient of mine; for you know, madam, I could safely swear you were under my care."

Miss Murrells burst into tears, and said, such a suspicion made her more unhappy than all the vexatious incidents she had ever met with: "But, sir, continued she, what would you advise me to do? can you tell me of a more reputable lodging? for as Miss Moody says in her letter, I am so unfortunate as not to be enough acquainted with such affairs, to provide one for myself."

"I will

“ I will endeavour, ma’am, to find out a proper one; but as your intention is to settle in a service, I should think, if you could procure one immediately, it would be much better than to be at such an expence; not to mention the dangers to which a single friendless young woman is exposed, in this part of the world.”

“ That is my sole aim, sir; and Miss Moody gave me hopes it might have been in your power to help me to one.”

“ She does indeed press me strongly upon that head; and as I can depend upon her recommendation, and would do any thing to oblige her: I had no sooner read her request, than I applied to my house-keeper, and asked her if she could inform me of a proper situation for a gentlewoman who was qualified to attend a lady of condition; she replied, such a one was very difficult

ficult to obtain, without a powerful recommendation; but said, there was an old lady of my acquaintance, who lives within a few doors of me, that was in immediate want of a servant; having been obliged to part from one at a minute's warning, on account of some light behaviour. Now, ma'am, this good lady has long been my friend, and I would sooner advise you to apply to her than any one. Her family is small, consisting of no persons but herself, two maids, and a footman. She resides sometimes in town, and sometimes in lodgings, at one of the adjacent villages; and is a woman of so much good nature, that, I dare say, if you can agree upon terms, the place would be more agreeable to you than one in a larger family, where you might be more liable to observation."

"By your description, sir, I find it such a place as I could wish, for it cannot be too retired for me; and if the lady will accept

cept of my service, and make kind allowances for my inexperience, I should be glad to attend her upon her own terms."

"I am not a proper judge of such affairs, ma'am; but if you approve of it, I will step to her this moment, and acquaint her with that part of my dear Miss Moody's letter that relates to you; and if I find her inclinable to take you, I will return sometime in the afternoon, and wait upon you to her; if not, I will seek for a more suitable lodging for you, than a public-house."

This proposition was very agreeable to Miss Murrells; upon which he left her, promising to give her intelligence of his success by four o'clock.

As soon as he was out of hearing, nurse said, "I pray to know who this gentleman is? and how you came to be acquainted

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ed with him?" And received for answer, a full account of the affair between him and Miss Moody, who had sent him to Miss Murrells.

"Ho! is it so! (said the old woman) I beg the doctor's pardon, I did not know who he was: well! I commend him for being so earnest to please his sweetheart; she seems to be a good condition'd creature, and 'tis a pity but she should have the man she fancies; and yet, may-hap, she may please her eye and plague her heart; for to my thinking, the young doctor looks but rakish; and I doubt, though she is a pretty kind of body, if she had not a good *portion*, she might go whistle for him. I heard somebody below swear at the landlady, as if heaven and earth would come together, and I am certain it was his voice. Well! there's nothing to be said for fancy; he is, to be sure, a genteel well-drest gentleman, but he looks so sappy, and has such a hatch-

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et face, that 'tis much she should like him."

Miss Murrells saw as little to admire in Mr. Lee's person and behaviour as nurse; but when she reflected on the mist love usually casts on its votaries, and Miss Moody's ignorance of the world, she was not so much surprized at her prepossession in his favour. However, she determined when she was fixed near him, to enquire into his conduct; and if it proved undeserving such a wife as Miss Moody, as there was no engagement between them, to inform her of it.

At the time appointed he returned to the inn, and Miss Murrells and nurse accompanied him to the old lady's house, who he said, was ready to talk with her; but imagine the surprize the young lady was in when she found Mrs. Durant was Mr. Lee's

Mr. Lee's friend. Mrs. Durant, upon sight of her, declared, if she had had any information of the design which brought Miss Murrells to town, she need not have troubled Mr. Lee; and could she suit herself to her private way of life, no terms should part them; she then acquainted her with her business, which being no more than to dress her and sit down to her needle, appeared so easy to be performed by Miss Murrells, that she immediately agreed to attend her next day.

This affair being adjusted, Miss Murrells, nurse, and the gentleman returned to the inn, when the former told Mr. Lee, she must be further troublesome, in procuring a lodging for Mrs. Adams, who proposed to stay in town till she was settled; and she thought in a week she should be able to judge, whether her place would suit her.

He answered, he could get her a chamber at a chandler's near Mrs. Durant's. This being agreed upon, he left Miss Murrells and nurse to pass that night together, who entered into a conversation concerning the transactions of the day; when nurse said, if Miss Murrells should like her new mistress, she would return to York in the waggon the week following, provided she would engage to give her information every fortnight of her health.

Next morning by nine they were told Mr. Lee was enquiring for them; upon which they left the inn, and went with him in search of a lodging for nurse, which they easily found, and then repaired to Mrs. Durant's; who very obligingly gave Mrs. Adams an invitation to partake of her table during her stay: an offer no less agreeable to Miss Murrells than to her nurse;

nurse; she was very thankful to her lady, and likewise to the gentleman, who had been at such pains upon her account.

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